United Nations A/60/PV.31

General Assembly
Sixtieth session

Official Records

31st plenary meeting
Thursday, 13 October 2005, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Eliasson ..... (Sweden)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda items 66 and 47

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

(a) New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

Report of the Secretary-General (A/60/178)

Note by the Secretary-General (A/60/85)

(b) Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General (A/60/182)

2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa

Note by the Secretary-General (A/60/208)

The President: I regret the change of meeting place. It seems as if nature is playing a role here, sending a message about the Capital Master Plan.

Today the General Assembly will consider agenda items 66 and 47 in a joint debate.

The meeting of the General Assembly has been called to provide an opportunity for debate on two matters, on the 2001-2010 Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, particularly in Africa, and on progress in implementation and international support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

Our deliberations are based on a number of helpful papers from the Secretary-General, including the report of his Advisory Panel on International Support for NEPAD (*see A/60/85*). I particularly commend the Panel for rooting its work in the realities of the lives of the poor. We should all bear in mind that "Success cannot be measured in the number of consultations, meetings and plans alone" and "The lives of people must change as a result of African and international support for NEPAD".

On malaria, there has been welcome progress in recent years. First of all, the number of treated bed nets distributed has increased massively during the past three years, and tenfold in more than a dozen African countries. That is a good example of aid working and of its making a very concrete difference in the lives of the poor. Secondly, the first African factory producing long-lasting bed nets opened in late 2004. Thirdly, since 2001, 53 countries have begun using more effective malaria drugs, with support from World Health Organization (WHO) and donors. In that connection, there is a worldwide effort under way to ensure that there are sufficient amounts of the raw material available to meet growing demand. Fourthly,

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there has been increased political momentum behind the international fight against malaria, not least because of leadership shown by African leaders. Lastly, there have been a number of recent pledges to increase bilateral and multilateral funding to tackle malaria.

But the tragic fact remains that every 30 seconds a child somewhere in Africa dies of malaria. Malaria remains the biggest killer of children under age five in Africa. All this happens despite the fact that we know how to prevent and treat malaria, and we know how to do it cheaply. So, if we are to lift this unnecessary and unacceptable burden of disease from the world's poorest, we need a strong partnership backed up by renewed financial and political commitment.

Turning to NEPAD, I believe 2005 has been a year of increased momentum for the cause of development, and for Africa in particular. This was evident at the world summit, where leader after leader from all over the world stressed the importance of tackling poverty.

As a result of the various reports, commissions and summits throughout the year, real progress has been made. We now have a clearer sense than ever before of what needs to be done to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and we must keep up that momentum. But I also know that, particularly in much of sub-Saharan Africa, there must be a rapid acceleration of efforts if the goals are to be met.

We have seen some welcome new commitments, both from developing countries and donors. The Group of Eight Summit in Gleneagles made substantial commitments on aid volumes and debt. African Union leaders (AU), at their Summit meeting in Sirte, Libya, made strong commitments on governance and on creating an environment conducive to investment and development.

Thanks in no small part to the African-owned agenda that NEPAD lays out, Africa is creating for itself a time of opportunity, the like of which we have not seen for a generation. In 1998, 14 African countries were in a state of armed conflict or strife. Now the number engaged in major conflict is down to three — still three too many, of course. The African Union is taking an ever more active role in peace and security. And there is no better signal of Africa's determination to take responsibility for its development than the news that 23 African countries have signed up with the African Peer Review Mechanism, with AU leaders in Sirte urging all member States to join as quickly as possible.

Having made this progress, there is now a fourfold challenge before us, in my view.

First, we must ensure that the commitments made this year are implemented. Implementation is a crucial word to the credibility of both this Organization and the work we do in this Organization. I was pleased to learn that the Africa Partnership Forum meeting in London on 4 and 5 October 2005 agreed that there should be one Joint Action Plan covering both donor and African commitments, and that progress on the Action Plan would be reviewed each year beginning in October 2006.

Secondly, the world must ensure that the final challenge of 2005 is accomplished — namely, achieving an outcome in the trade talks in Hong Kong in December, which will advance the cause of development in Africa and beyond.

Thirdly, we must ensure that the momentum generated this year is maintained and built upon. All those who have a role to play — African Governments and countries, regional organizations, donors, the international financial institutions, civil society, the private sector — must step up to the challenge. Here at the United Nations, it simply will not do for us to say that we have now "done development" at the World Summit, and that we will come back to it at another Review in five years' time. We must keep development high on the General Assembly's agenda this year.

A top priority is to get the Peacebuilding Commission established by the end of the year, so that the international community is able to give those African States emerging from conflict the support they deserve. You will also know that the President of the Economic and Social Council, Ambassador Akram, has important plans on development, not least the special event to be held later this month on the food crisis in Africa.

Fourthly, you, as members of the General Assembly, must ensure that the world hears the full story about what is happening in Africa. Yes, there are still enormous unmet needs. HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, alongside malaria, continue to take a massive, deadly toll. There are too many Africans whose lives are blighted by poverty, insecurity or a

lack of human dignity. But — and I stress this — we must also avoid a sense of helplessness and despair about Africa. The more you can get the message out about the many good things you are doing to tackle corruption, improve governance, attract investment and help your people lift themselves out of poverty, the stronger the chorus will be that demands that you get the support you need and deserve.

We will now move on to the list of speakers. We have an improvised podium here in this chamber. Speakers will have to adapt the microphone to their height.

Mr. Andjaba (Namibia): On behalf of the African Group, I wish to express our deep appreciation to the Secretary-General for his third consolidated report on progress in the implementation of and international support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), as contained in document A/60/178, and his report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, in document A/60/182. The two issues are inextricably linked because no meaningful development can take place in a situation of violent conflict and insecurity. Therefore, while we welcome the fact that, at present, only three African countries are engaged in major conflict, we continue to be deeply disturbed by the lingering civil strife in other parts of Africa, which are causing death and destruction and laying waste vast swathes of productive land on the continent. It is no source of joy to us that "most African countries enjoy relatively stable political conditions" (*A/60/182, para.* 4) under democratic Governments.

Indeed, we want all African countries to enjoy firmly rooted democratic governance under the rule of law, which alone can create the conditions conducive to the renaissance to which the continent has committed itself through the NEPAD initiative. The African Group believes that the many challenges and threats facing our continent demand a wider engagement from the international community as a whole.

Africa recognizes that the consolidation of development will be hampered by internecine conflicts that decimate populations, plunder precious natural resources and destroy already limited infrastructure. Consequently, the urgency to consolidate the necessary conditions for durable peace and development throughout the African continent cannot be overstated. As noted in the Secretary-General's report under reference, the two major threats to durable peace and sustainable development in Africa are internal conflict including civil war, genocide and other large-scale atrocities — and economic and social threats, including poverty, infectious diseases and environmental degradation.

With regard to internal conflicts and other large-scale atrocities, the report of the Secretary-General is quite accurate in pointing out some of the crucial challenges facing the security environment in Africa, such as illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, mercenaries, the illegal exploitation of natural resources, youth unemployment, the problem of refugees, and diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

The challenges are also enormous in maintaining international attention in areas where peace remains fragile unless sustained through a multidimensional approach to peace, thus minimizing the risk of relapse into conflict. The African Group believes that the time is ripe for a structured cooperation between the African Union (AU) and the United Nations in order to assist the ongoing efforts to develop an African-led agenda on post-conflict peacebuilding, addressing the nexus between security, development and the humanitarian dimensions of peace in Africa.

To that end, we note with satisfaction the strengthening of the capacity of the AU to intervene and mediate in conflicts on the continent through the establishment of the African Peace Facility, funded initially by the European Union, to support AU peace operations and capacity-building. We also welcome the provision by the G-8 countries of direct bilateral technical assistance and financial support to the AU, as well as to some subregional organizations, such as the Economic Community of West African States and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, to support their conflict-prevention and crisis-management efforts.

Those laudable initiatives have been endorsed in the 2005 summit outcome document. We firmly call for the urgent and comprehensive implementation by all sides of the commitments made on conflict prevention, peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding and reconstruction. It is our belief that the early operationalization of the peacebuilding commission

would be helpful in post-conflict reconstruction in Africa.

The elimination of economic and social threats to durable peace and sustainable development in Africa is at the very heart of the NEPAD initiative. As stated in the Secretary-General's report, "NEPAD aims to generate broad-based and equitable growth that allows Africa to reduce poverty and integrate better into the world economy" (*A/60/178, para. 5*) — a task that is complex and painstaking.

The complex and painstaking nature of the process involved in turning NEPAD objectives into practical achievements comes through quite clearly in the discussion of the various sectors of the NEPAD programme in the report of the Secretary-General. African countries have made progress through the Short-term Action Plan in infrastructure development, covering facilitation studies and investment and capacity-building projects.

It is evident from the current report that lack of technical capacity is a major impediment that requires urgent, time-bound remedial measures to accelerate the capacity-building programmes and thereby move the infrastructure-building agenda forward. In that connection, we call for the speedy implementation of the commitment undertaken by the international community in the 2005 summit outcome document to support the building of an international infrastructure consortium involving the African Union, the World Bank and the African Development Bank, with NEPAD as the main framework, to facilitate public and private infrastructure investment in Africa.

We welcome the launching of the NEPAD e-schools demonstration project, which is a critical element of the NEPAD e-schools initiative, and call for the provision of more resources to expand the initiative to more African countries.

We share the view expressed in the report that most of the elements of disease-based programmes in Africa need a functional health service for effective delivery. The lack of skilled human resources in the health sector in Africa is a very vexed question. On the one hand, African Governments, constrained by limited resources, are unable to train adequate health workers, while on the other, the few that have been trained with scarce resources are leaving in large numbers to seek more lucrative conditions abroad, thereby worsening an already bad situation. It is thus imperative to support the health systems in Africa.

It is encouraging to note that the articulation of the road map for the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme was the most important development during the year. In that regard, we note with appreciation the decision by our development partners, especially the United States of America through its Initiative to End Hunger in Africa, to allocate $47 million for 2005, in support of the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme. Our gratitude also goes to the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom and the International Fund for Agricultural Development for other initiatives in support of the Programme.

African countries have committed themselves to the promotion of democracy and good governance, including economic governance, as espoused by the African leaders, including in the African Peer Review Mechanism. We note that 23 countries have signed on to the African Peer Review Mechanism, and the Peer Review Panel has completed country reviews for Ghana and Rwanda and presented its report to the African Peer Review Forum in Abuja for discussion. We commend all countries and institutions that have contributed to the African Peer Review Mechanism trust fund and call on the international community to continue providing financial resources and technical assistance to the process. The completion of the review process for countries that have signed up will give added impetus to the African Peer Review Mechanism and may encourage other countries wishing to do so to join the process.

The international community made an unequivocal commitment in the 2005 summit outcome document (resolution 60/1) to provide coherent support for NEPAD programmes, including by mobilizing internal and external financial resources and by facilitating approval of such programmes by the multilateral financial institutions. We hope that these commitments will be speedily implemented in support of the continent's development.

Concerning official development assistance (ODA), we warmly welcome the recent decisions taken by our partners, including the G-8 and the European Union, in support of Africa's development efforts,

including commitments that will lead to an increase in ODA to Africa of $25 billion per year by 2010, as part of the drive to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.

We wish, however, to re-emphasize the fact that declared pledges by themselves will not effect the desired changes. Delivery of the pledged support through new and additional resources in a sustained, effective and timely manner is crucial in order not to hinder the pace of implementation of development priorities in Africa. We further call for the implementation of the internationally agreed target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI) to developing countries, with 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNI to the least developed countries.

It is important that developed countries ensure aid predictability and aid effectiveness through the implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. Coordination of delivery of aid consistent with national priorities will be essential for Africa if it is to meet the MDGs by 2015. The same applies to budgetary support to facilitate the achievement of the MDGs.

In the 2005 summit outcome document, the international community also committed itself to promote a comprehensive and durable solution to the external debt problem of African countries, including through the cancellation of 100 per cent of multilateral debt for highly indebted poor countries (HIPCs), consistent with the G-8 proposal, and, on a case-by-case basis, significant debt relief for heavily indebted non-HIPC African countries which have unsustainable debt burdens. We are, however, concerned that many African countries remain burdened by debt, and we call for urgent measures to address the debt crisis of those countries.

In this regard, we are greatly encouraged by the agreement reached in Washington on 25 September 2005 by the Development Committee and the International Monetary and Financial Committee of the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund to endorse the G-8 proposal to cancel 100 per cent of multilateral debt owed by 18 eligible HIPCs, 14 of which are in Africa. We call for the speedy implementation of that decision, as well as for a clear framework of implementation from the African Development Bank. We recognize that the agreement does not cover bilateral debt and debt owed to other multilateral credit institutions, and we call for measures to address those issues in order to address the debt burden in Africa comprehensively.

As rightly stated in the Secretary-General's report (A/60/178), while debt relief and increased ODA coupled with policy reforms are important to meeting Africa's needs in the short to medium term, equitable trade holds the key to its long-term growth and development. And yet it is in this area that the least progress has been made. Much lip service has been paid by the world community to trade liberalization and expeditious work towards implementing the development dimensions of the Doha Work Programme and to integrating African countries fully into the international trading system.

As we approach the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO), scheduled for December of this year, we call on all WTO members, particularly the industrialized countries, to show leadership and the much-needed political will to move the development agenda forward. Fair trade, as argued in the report, not only requires market access, but also the strengthening of the capacity of African countries to export. In this connection, we endorse the recommendation that initiatives such as the trade-for-aid agenda, aimed at building Africa's capacity to compete in international trade, should be promoted and expanded.

We recognize the potential of South-South cooperation in promoting economic growth and development. The challenge, however, is to translate this potential into practical activities and programmes that can yield results within specific time frames, including through the implementation of initiatives such as the Tokyo International Conference on African Development-NEPAD Joint Policy Framework for the Promotion of Trade and Investment between Africa and Asia and the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership. However, we remain of the view that South-South cooperation should complement and not replace North-South cooperation.

The Secretary-General's report notes that the United Nations system, through its funds, programmes and specialized agencies, has been in the forefront of the advocacy and harnessing of international support for Africa's development efforts in general and NEPAD in particular. We call on the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to further

improve the coordination of their support for NEPAD and the achievement of the MDGs in order to avoid duplication of activities and to maximize the use of available resources. As we embark on the implementation phase of the summit outcome, we look to the United Nations system to continue to offer its invaluable institutional support to the NEPAD programme, the African Union and individual African countries, as together we pursue the challenging goal of development in Africa.

To conclude, the African Group wishes to stress the importance of mutual accountability in the partnership for development that Africa is striving to establish with the international community, as recognized in the collaborative work done by the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on the mutual review of aid effectiveness in Africa. We share the view expressed in the biennial report issued by those two institutions that, at a time when large increases in aid to Africa are contemplated, both donors' and recipient African countries' systems for aid delivery and management should be strengthened. The African Group is convinced that mutual accountability will ensure improved development performance and sustained aid increases.

Mr. Thomson (United Kingdom): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 25 European Union member States. Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Croatia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this statement.

First of all, I am speaking personally but I think I speak for my European Union colleagues as well. I welcome your introductory statement to this debate, Mr. President, and in particular the four points you underlined: the importance of implementing of the commitments made this year, the importance of building on the momentum achieved this year, the importance of relaying to the world the full story of Africa and the importance of the outcome of the Hong Kong trade talks, to which I shall turn in a moment.

On all these points, the European Union (EU) is committed to playing a leading role in helping to meet the special needs of Africa. I want to use the debate this morning to identify some of the ways in which the European Union hopes that the African development agenda can be taken forward over the coming months and implemented.

The 2005 World Summit outcome document underlines the commitment of the global community to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It also provides the Africa Partnership Forum with the principles of a joint framework to ensure delivery of international and African commitments to the continent. These advances represent a partnership between all of us. And both of these developments provide us with a substantive basis on which to build further, including by creating an environment conducive to the development of the whole African continent. As our heads of State and Government agreed, peace and security, development and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

As I said, I want to start with trade, a powerful engine for development and for achieving the MDGs. The European Union looks forward to working closely with partners towards success in the Doha Development Agenda, in particular in the run-up to the crucial WTO Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong in December. We believe that it will be possible — and crucial — for substantial progress to be made in Hong Kong so as to bring the Doha Round to an early and successful conclusion in all areas of negotiation. With a comprehensive, pro-development agenda — combining trade liberalization with rule-making and complementary aid for trade and trade-related assistance — the Doha Round can bring benefits to all trading partners and in particular to developing countries. We also believe that it is important to make progress in the area of regional integration, which accounts for a substantial element of the income generated by trade.

Preferential market access remains important, in particular for the poorest countries, many of which are in Africa. The European Union market remains the most open, and the most important, for developing-country exports globally. Since 2001, our Everything But Arms scheme has provided duty-free and quota-free market access to all least developed countries exports. And the Cotonou Agreement provides preferential market access to the European Union by African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. Since 1980, trade between the European Union and developing countries has more than tripled and one fifth of all developing country exports now go to the European Union. As much as 97 per cent of African, Caribbean

and Pacific countries' exports to the European Union enter duty free, and tariff escalation is virtually non-existent.

But as the previous speaker, the Ambassador of Namibia, has just reminded us, Africa also needs greater support for trade capacity-building in order to maximize the opportunities created. The European Union is already the world's biggest provider of trade-related assistance. To help developing countries fully exploit market access opportunities, the European Community this summer pledged to increase such assistance to 1 billion euros per year.

Let me turn to aid now. The European Union currently provides almost half of all the money spent to help developing countries. As part of a comprehensive approach to our international assistance, the European Union is committed to providing more and better aid, multilateral debt relief and complementary innovative sources of finance in order to help meet the Millennium Development Goals. At present, four out of the five countries that exceed the United Nations target for official development assistance (ODA) of 0.7 per cent of GNP are members of the European Union. In June of this year, as the representative of Namibia recalled, the European Union adopted a new collective target of 0.56 per cent by 2010 and an undertaking to achieve a 0.7 per cent target by 2015, with a 0.33 per cent target for European Union member States who joined the Union after 2002. This landmark agreement should double European Union aid from current levels to over $80 billion by 2010. At least half of this aid will go to Africa.

To ensure that this huge increase in funds is used effectively, the European Council will agree to a new Africa strategy by December of this year. This will be a strategy of the whole European Union: the Union, its institutions and the member States. It will apply to the whole of Africa, not just to Africa south of the Sahara. The primary aim will be the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals right across Africa. It will encompass development, security and human rights. It will be based on the principles of African ownership, equality and mutual accountability. And it will launch a new European Union/Africa strategic partnership, setting the course of the relationship for the long term.

In order to deliver a better deal for the citizens of Africa, a key theme of this strategy will be support and help to develop strong African institutions. This will include a package of financial and practical help to build the capacity of the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and Africa's subregional and national institutions.

In particular, we support the African Peer Review Mechanism and its Secretariat Trust Fund, enabling African States to monitor each other's performance. We hope to see this process moving forward in 2006. We are providing European Union electoral observation missions to monitor elections in Africa and to help promote the adoption of ever-better electoral standards and practice. We will support the African Union in its endeavours to strengthen better governance, regional integration and poverty reduction in Africa through its economic and social programmes, including NEPAD. We will support efforts to enhance the capacity of the African Union and regional economic communities by providing programme support, in cooperation with other donors. We will work to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms by strengthening European Union/African cooperation within the international human rights system and by supporting the machinery for the protection of human rights. We will work for implementation of the rule of law, as a basis for respect for human rights, democracy and development, by providing support for institution-building.

Furthermore, in order to ensure that Africa's wealth benefits its people, the European Union will continue to support, both politically and financially, African States that tackle corruption. The European Union-Africa Strategy will ensure that aid will flow increasingly towards well-governed countries, while paying attention to all vulnerable States. And all EU member States will commit to early ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and to the enactment of laws to return stolen assets.

HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria account for 6 million deaths each year in the developing world. This morning, you yourself, Mr. President, powerfully underlined the impact of malaria in particular. We must all work urgently to address the impact of those major communicable diseases through strengthened health systems that facilitate an integrated approach of prevention, treatment, care and research. All these require greater resources if Africa is to achieve the MDGs. The EU Programme for Action, announced earlier this year, outlines our future strategy for

combating HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. We are committed to the goal of universal access to prevention, treatment and care by 2010.

The European Union is a major contributor to the development and effective implementation of evidence-based malaria control programmes and to work on increasing the affordability of antimalarial medicines. The EU is supporting research for better malaria drugs and an effective vaccine. Some EU member States are currently working with partners to develop an advance market commitment for a malaria vaccine. And the EU is a strong supporter of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership and of the work of the World Health Organization, both of which are vital to scaling up the international response to malaria.

European Union member States and the European Commission were founding members of the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. To date, we have pledged $4.5 billion — more than half of all the money pledged to the Fund. Almost two thirds of the Fund's money goes to sub-Saharan Africa.

Our Namibian colleague reminded us that meaningful development cannot take place in an environment of violence and insecurity. The European Union welcomes African resolve to tackle the problems of insecurity and instability on the continent. Over the past few years, the African Union has sought to transform and develop the African security architecture through the establishment of its Peace and Security Council, and plans for a panel of the wise and a continental early-warning system, as well as through progress towards an African standby force. That commitment was reinforced at the African Union summit in Sirte this year, where leaders committed, as members will recall, to:

> "addressing conflict and political instability on the continent, with the aim of achieving a conflict-free Africa by 2010 by prioritizing and allocating more resources to conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding ..."

The European Union is fully committed to those efforts and to playing a full part in the 10-year plan for capacity-building with the African Union that was called for by the world summit just a few weeks ago. The European Union will continue its dialogue with the African Union with a view to establishing institutional linkages and defining a comprehensive operational agenda, particularly on peace and security. In that context, the timely holding of a second EU-Africa summit, as foreseen in the Cairo Declaration, remains an important objective of the EU-Africa dialogue. The European Union also welcomes commitments made by the Group of Eight to support African capacities for peace and security.

One of the European Union's main tools for supporting African efforts in peace and security is the African Peace Facility, a €250 million instrument to finance African-led peace support operations in Africa. It is operated and staffed by Africans, and it will help to build longer-term capacity in the African Union and in subregional African institutions to prevent, manage and resolve crises. So far, the Peace Facility has supported the African Union leadership in Darfur by providing more than €92 million to the African Union Mission in the Sudan. The European Union has also provided €6 million to the African Union's Peace and Security Department for its capacity-building plans. And we are currently considering how we might continue to provide support to African-led missions in the future through the African Peace Facility.

But, of course, the partnership between the European Union and the African Union on peace and security should not be only about money. In the future, the EU and the AU also hope to increase cooperation in areas such as planning and management capacity and information-sharing on doctrine and standards and logistical support. In that context, it is worth noting the European Union's support for the Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy. The EU will also continue working with African and other international partners to check the flow of unregulated arms on the continent. In addition, there is a need to ensure that European Union and African Union capacities can coordinate and mesh with the capacities of the United Nations.

It would not be right to end my statement, Mr. President, without underlining the importance of the Peacebuilding Commission; you have done so yourself. For Africa and Europe, the Peacebuilding Commission is one of the biggest prizes to come out of the summit and a major priority. The experience of the Economic and Social Council's ad hoc advisory groups on African countries emerging from conflict has demonstrated the central role that post-conflict peacebuilding plays in ensuring a smooth transition to

stability and development. For too long, the international community's efforts at peacebuilding, in Africa as elsewhere, have been marked by piecemeal and uncoordinated interventions that often lack national ownership. The result is the famous statistic that approximately half of post-conflict countries relapse into conflict within a decade. We have a moral, political and economic duty to improve our approach and to help those countries establish a lasting, sustainable peace.

The Peacebuilding Commission will be the forum for all relevant actors in peacebuilding, so that coordination and delivery can be genuinely improved. It will keep the political spotlight on fragile countries as they make the transition to development, and it will be a means to help mobilize sustained funding for peacebuilding. We must push forward and agree on the modalities of the Peacebuilding Commission quickly so that it can be ready to work by 31 December 2005, as we pledged at the summit. We must do this, not least for Africa's sake.

More generally, the whole United Nations system should play an important role in supporting African development to achieve the MDGs and to create security and sustainability throughout the continent. That includes agency work at the country level as well as the activities of the principal organs, including the General Assembly and the Security Council. A reformed Economic and Social Council also has an important role to play, particularly in promoting and monitoring the implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs.

The European Union is proud of its record of partnership with Africa. We will continue to work tirelessly with our friends and partners to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. We remain convinced that the MDGs, while ambitious, are achievable. We are putting in place both the resources and the strategy needed to realize that ambition and we look forward to the day when this challenge is met right across the African continent.

Mr. Neil (Jamaica): I would like, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, to thank you Mr. President, for your opening statement this morning, which has set the tone and established the focus for this debate.

I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his third consolidated report on progress in implementation of and international support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), contained in document A/60/178. For the Group of 77 and China, the discussion this morning is a necessary continuation of the focus this year on the special needs of Africa. These are critical times for the people of the continent, but we are seeing signs of hope.

Several reports considered during the course of this year, in particular the Millennium Project report and the report of the Commission for Africa, focused on ways to generate new momentum for development in Africa. Important decisions have been taken and specific commitments made to mobilize resources for Africa's development. If those are pursued and fulfilled, the prospects for the future will be brighter.

We can see from the Secretary-General's report that there have been positive developments in the implementation of NEPAD. The report provides detailed examples of the progress made in the areas of agriculture, health, education, infrastructure and information and communications technology. We are convinced that there is great scope for building on those gains.

Progress continues to be constrained, however, by several factors. The first concerns the issue of resources. The needs are substantial for the building of the social and economic infrastructure. For example, paragraph 15 of the Secretary-General's report draws attention to the lack of skilled human resources in the health sector and the particular challenge that that poses for African countries, where health professionals are leaving for better opportunities in developed countries. The solution to that ever-growing problem requires coordinated action on the part of both the African and the recipient States.

Similarly, in view of the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis on the socio-economic development of the continent, substantial resources are needed to support efforts to respond effectively to those pandemics. The 2005 World Summit Outcome reaffirms some important avenues through which that can be advanced so as to ensure increased bilateral and multilateral assistance to strengthen African health systems. We continue to call for a more affordable and accessible supply of drugs to be made available to Africa.

With respect to official development assistance (ODA), the trend has been towards an increase in the volume of ODA to Africa since 2002. The recent

European Union (EU) commitment to establishing timetables to meet the target of 0.7 per cent target of gross national income for ODA to developing countries and to the doubling of aid to Africa by 2010 are positive developments, which we welcome. There is, however, still cause for concern. Paragraph 38 of the Secretary-General's report identifies the need for more resources to be channelled to the leading programmes and sectors of NEPAD and for greater attention to be given to increasing budgetary support for development. Continuing efforts to improve the quality and effectiveness of aid are also needed, with the full involvement of both donor and recipient countries.

Another area requiring special attention is that of foreign direct investment (FDI) flows to Africa. Despite increases in FDI globally from $15 billion in 2003 to $20 billion in 2004, Africa's share in global foreign direct investment flows remains only 3 per cent. We believe that there is a need for more creative initiatives and greater efforts in capacity-building and infrastructural development in order to increase FDI to African countries. We look forward to good results from the ongoing discussion on the proposal to create an investment climate facility for Africa, which has been endorsed by the NEPAD secretariat and major multilateral and bilateral donor agencies.

On debt, the position of the Group of 77 and China is well known. Debt-relief initiatives should be additional to ODA resources for development purposes and should be all-encompassing, so that all heavily indebted developing countries can benefit appropriately.

With respect to trade, the forthcoming World Trade Organization Ministerial Meeting provides an important opportunity for significant decisions to be taken to reform the world trading system so as to provide better opportunities for trade to contribute to Africa's long-term growth and development. We expect every effort to be made so that the development dimensions of the Doha work programme can be truly realized.

With regard to the role of the United Nations, paragraph 56 of the Secretary-General's report correctly points to the need for greater coordination within the United Nations system in supporting the implementation of NEPAD. That is one area in which greater efforts will have to be made. We therefore support the proposals advanced to improve coordination between the United Nations and the African Union in order to enhance collaboration and coherence within the United Nations system in support of NEPAD.

Our commitments made in support of NEPAD should be honoured. The report identifies this as one of the major challenges in ensuring the timely and effective implementation of NEPAD in a manner which will generate significant results for Africa. In the process, we particularly wish to caution against the imposition of restrictive conditionalities in economic cooperation programmes. The design of such programmes should be in accordance with the priorities and strategies determined by each State, and suitably adapted to each particular institutional and cultural environment. It is important that those are applied on the basis of national ownership in order for maximum benefit to flow in the process of implementation.

The President: I would like to say once again that I regret that we have had to make provisional arrangements to hold our meeting in this chamber. If representatives prefer to speak from their seats, they may do so; I leave it up to them to choose. This is because of the weather conditions and the obvious need for the United Nations building to be refurbished. I ask for the understanding of members.

Mr. Talbot (Guyana): I would like to join previous speakers in thanking you, Mr. President, for your thoughtful statement at the beginning of our debate. It will serve as a useful reference point in our deliberations.

I am especially honoured to speak in today's debate on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) on behalf of the States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). CARICOM aligns itself fully with the statement just delivered by the Permanent Representative of Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

CARICOM views the adoption of the New Partnership as a reflection of Africa's determination to harness its own resources to extricate its people from poverty, underdevelopment and marginalization. We are convinced that the Partnership offers a viable and authoritative framework not only for the mobilization of efforts by Africans themselves, but also for the mobilization of effective support on the part of the international community.

CARICOM member States are heartened by the leadership that African countries have shown both in laying the foundations for long-term development and in creating conditions for durable peace and security in that continent. The African Union (AU) has been a positive force for change on the continent and has been a credible partner to the international community in promoting the aspirations of human progress worldwide.

We follow with great interest the creative efforts of the AU in the development of new institutional arrangements to accelerate integration in the continent and to enable Africa to play its rightful role in the world. We share a common commitment with the AU to good governance in managing the affairs of our peoples. Those efforts, in our view, deserve the unstinting support of the international community. CARICOM congratulates the African Union on its achievements and pledges its continued support and cooperation in that regard.

The long-standing ties of solidarity and cooperation between Africa and the Caribbean received a welcome boost by the decision of the African Union to include its diaspora as the sixth region and to involve the representatives of the Caribbean diaspora in deliberations in the Economic, Social and Cultural Council and the civil society advisory group. Pursuant to that decision, during March of this year the Governments of Jamaica and South Africa co-sponsored a conference under the theme "Towards unity and united action by Africans and the African diaspora in the Caribbean for a better world". The conference, which was attended by all CARICOM member States, with representatives from both the public sector and civil society, recommended the further development of a concrete mechanism for the institutionalization of the relationships between the AU and CARICOM, identified specific areas for collaboration and the building of linkages between countries in Africa and the Caribbean, called for collaboration among civil society, and agreed that CARICOM and the AU would explore ways to harness international diplomacy to promote our mutual objectives in the United Nations and the World Trade Organization (WTO). The outcome of the conference received the endorsement of CARICOM heads at their twenty-sixth annual meeting, held earlier this year in Saint Lucia, marking the beginning of a promising new chapter in the relations between our two regions at all levels.

Let me now comment briefly on the third consolidated report on progress in implementation of and international support for the New Partnership, as contained in document A/60/178. The report, in our view, provides a hopeful overview of developments over the past year. It notes that 2005 has been marked by important regional actions and greater international response in support of Africa's development. CARICOM welcomes the promising developments on the continent in certain sectoral areas, such as infrastructure, information and communication technology, health, education, environment and tourism, and agriculture, led by African countries and organizations. In respect of agriculture, the elaboration of the road map for the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, acknowledged as the most important development in that area over the past year, harbours the potential for the promotion of a "green revolution" on the continent and the strengthening of the underpinnings of its long-term development.

Those encouraging achievements notwithstanding, many obstacles stand in the way of the attainment of NEPAD objectives and of the Millennium Development Goals on the continent. The report calls attention to a number of the many challenges and constraints that continue to beset the implementation of the New Partnership. The HIV/AIDS pandemic, along with other communicable diseases, is still taking a heavy toll on the human capital and the social and economic infrastructure of Africa. Africa's heavy debt burden remains a major drain on its development potential. The continent lacks the financial resources needed to generate the requisite levels of growth to reduce poverty. Africa's share of global trade continues to be marginal, and while the region has recently witnessed positive developments in attracting foreign direct investment, those gains need to be consolidated through a facilitative international framework of support for efforts on the continent to create an environment conducive to investment.

That state of affairs represents a major challenge not only for Africa, but for the international community as a whole. It underlines the critical importance of a long-term engagement on the part both of Africa and of its development partners in order to assure the full realization of the objectives of NEPAD.

Recent initiatives by the international community offer hope that such an engagement can indeed materialize, to the mutual benefit of Africa and its development partners. We welcome the recent G-8 Africa Action Plan, which promises debt relief, increased aid flows, a commitment to improving global market access for African exports, and an agreement to provide medical assistance to the continent. Commitments made by developed partners to achieve the 0.7 per cent official development assistance target by 2015 are also welcome. We remain hopeful that those commitments will be implemented with due dispatch.

We note, however, that even as those measures are put into effect, there are developments in a number of areas, such as the marketing of commodities, including sugar and cotton, which may negatively impact the future of many countries both in Africa and the Caribbean. We therefore call for renewed international attention to the need for coherence in development, trade and finance policies to avert the erosion of development gains and the aggravation of poverty in developing countries. We also look to the WTO meeting in Hong Kong as an important test of the commitment to placing development at the heart of multilateral trade negotiations.

In the final analysis, while the primary responsibility for the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa rests with Africans themselves, the fortunes of the continent will depend not only on the actions of Africans, but also on the actions of the international community, which have the potential either to support or to undermine the gains made in recent years. The 2005 world summit outcome has pledged the international community to coherent support for NEPAD implementation and to specific measures in favour of African countries. The implementation of those commitments must now engage our urgent attention.

For its part, CARICOM, linked to Africa by fraternal ties and solidarity in historic struggles, remains committed to playing a positive and constructive role in support of the aspirations embodied in the New Partnership.

Mr. Maema (Lesotho): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC): Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

At the outset, we wish to congratulate you, Sir, on your election to preside over the General Assembly at its sixtieth session. We are confident that your vast experience and able leadership will lead us to a successful session. SADC pledges its support and cooperation. SADC fully aligns itself with the statement made by Namibia on behalf of the African Group, which outlines the significant strides Africa, in partnership with the international community, is making in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

SADC welcomes the Secretary General's third consolidated report on progress in implementation of and international support for NEPAD, in document A/60/178, as well as the report on the causes of conflict and promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, in document A/60/182. Both reports highlight the progress made so far towards realizing Africa's aspirations to eradicating poverty and attaining sustained economic growth, sustainable development and durable peace. Perhaps more importantly, the reports call for more concerted international efforts to address the growing challenges and constraints that continue to undermine development in Africa.

Four years ago, Africa adopted NEPAD as a regional policy framework to guide the continent in its quest for economic prosperity and stability. NEPAD is anchored in the fundamental principles of African ownership, leadership and accountability, as well as good governance and the maintenance of peace and security. NEPAD envisages a strong partnership with the international community built on mutual goodwill, respect and solidarity, a programme which this body has recognized as a framework through which the international community should assist Africa.

We recognized then, as we do today, that national Governments and regional economic communities have critical roles to play in the realization and implementation of the NEPAD initiative. In that respect, allow me to highlight the efforts that SADC is making to harmonize its development priorities with NEPAD through the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), particularly in the areas of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development

Programme (CAADP) and the environment; education and health; science and technology; infrastructure development and tourism; resource mobilization, capacity-building, gender mainstreaming and civil society participation; and democracy, peace, security and governance. To that end, priority has been accorded to the harmonization of policies and coordination of the implementation of key programmes in the area of social and human development, in line with RISDP, the Millennium Development Goals, and, indeed, NEPAD.

Furthermore, since 2004, the SADC and NEPAD secretariats have scaled up their coordination of and participation in NEPAD-related development activities and their mobilization of resources to expedite the implementation of projects. That relationship will no doubt go a long way towards contributing to greater coherence and synchronization of priorities and plans, as well as enabling the possibility of sharing expertise and resources in critical areas.

SADC has a common agenda geared towards the promotion and attainment of sustainable development, peace, stability and democracy. We have long recognized that good political, economic and corporate governance is an essential prerequisite of sustainable development. In that regard, we are pleased to note that half of the SADC member States have acceded to the African Peer Review Mechanism. Those are important tenets to which both SADC and NEPAD fully subscribe.

SADC will therefore continue to strive to promote strong synergies between its development programmes and NEPAD by working together and pursuing projects that will have direct economic and social benefits for SADC countries; contribute to poverty eradication and human development; have economy-of-scale gains where regionally coordinated investments or operations will result in substantial cost savings and employment benefits; unlock the economic potential of less developed areas and countries to promote balanced and equitable development; contribute to SADC's integration into the regional, continental and global economy; contribute to market integration specially facilitating free movement of goods, services and factors of production; and contribute to sustainable development and gender equality.

Efforts to source funds to implement development projects within the NEPAD framework have been scaled up by the NEPAD and SADC secretariats. In that context, intensive consultations are ongoing to speed up the implementation of the Short-term Action Plan for infrastructure and the CAADP. Moreover, in the NEPAD Short-term Action Plan, SADC has also identified the need to upgrade transport infrastructure along some key regional corridors.

SADC continues to contend with the HIV/AIDS scourge, which is threatening to reverse all the development gains we have made over the years. In 2004, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS estimated that one third of the global community living with HIV is in SADC countries. We have, however, given top priority to combating the pandemic, as well as other communicable diseases, such as malaria and tuberculosis, that are decimating our productive populations. To overcome those afflictions in the long run, we will continue to count on the support of our development partners.

SADC welcomes the recent pledges of increased support by the international community, as well as the recent efforts to scale up official development assistance by realizing the 0.7 per cent target. In that regard, we commend the European Union for setting up timetables for achieving that long overdue target. We equally laud and welcome the initiative of the G-8 to cancel 100 per cent of the debt of the highly indebted poor countries, 14 of which are in Africa.

The Secretary-General has noted in his report that significant progress has been made in the implementation of the NEPAD initiative. That is largely due to the impressive support of our development partners, to which SADC and, indeed, the rest of Africa owe a debt of gratitude. However, the Secretary-General also highlighted the ever-pressing challenges of inadequate official development assistance, the growing debt burden, the unfair and inequitable global trade regime, and very low foreign direct investment flows to Africa.

It should be a matter of great concern to all of us that Africa continues to have the lowest share of global foreign direct investment flows. Equally worrying is Africa's unsustainable debt burden. For instance, the SADC countries have a total debt stock of $78.1 billion, with an annual total debt service amounting to $6.8 billion. Unless progress is made in those areas, the

implementation of NEPAD and the realization of other internationally agreed development goals will remain elusive. It is therefore imperative to ensure that all commitments made are realized expeditiously if Africa is to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and successfully implement its national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers and all programmes and projects embodied in the NEPAD initiative.

In conclusion, the Secretary-General in his report points out that

> "[T]his is a moment of opportunity for making progress in Africa's development for which NEPAD is the main policy framework. The central challenge is to grasp the opportunity and maintain the momentum" (*A/60/178, para. 59*).

SADC can only concur with the Secretary-General that at no point in the past has an African regional policy framework held such immense promise, exhibited such enormous potential for development, and generated so much hope and international support. We can only do well if we heed the Secretary-General's counsel and not lose the important momentum at this critical juncture.

Mr. Hamidon (Malaysia): The States members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) — Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, Thailand, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and Malaysia — wish to associate themselves with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

ASEAN wishes to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive and thorough report on progress in the implementation of and international support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), as contained in document A/60/178.

Since the New Partnership for Africa's Development was launched four years ago, there has been a transformation of the African peoples' forward movement towards greater integration and unity. The African countries' determination to maintain a positive momentum, despite the many and complex challenges, is truly admirable. We are aware from the report of the Secretary-General that the African countries have taken action on many fronts, including in infrastructure development, information and communication technology, health, education, agriculture and many other important areas. The international community has made a pledge to meet the special needs of Africa. With the appropriate international response, African countries would have a greater chance of achieving the Millennium Development Goals and of better integrating themselves into the world economy. In that connection, ASEAN hopes that partnerships for Africa's development can be further strengthened.

The partnership between Asia and Africa is long-standing and was further strengthened at the inaugural Asia-Africa Conference in Bandung in 1955. That historic occasion gave rise to a unique spirit of kinship and solidarity known as the "Bandung spirit" among the countries of the two regions. The 2005 Asia-Africa Summit and the golden jubilee of the Asia-Africa Conference of 1955, held earlier this year in Indonesia, revived the commitment of the two continents to build a world resting on the principles of peace, security, stability and prosperity. A bridge spanning the Indian Ocean, connecting the continents of Asia and Africa, is now being built through the New Asia-Africa Strategic Partnership (NAASP).

There is much common ground between NEPAD and NAASP, as the challenges being addressed by Africa are similar to those faced by other developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including ASEAN. Poverty still exists in rural and urban areas. Both regions also face the pandemic of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases, such as tuberculosis and malaria. The destructive forces of natural disasters have also affected our lives. With such similarities, it is only natural that Asia and Africa should work together. In that regard, as a subregional organization, ASEAN would very much like to have greater dialogue and cooperation in the full materialization of NEPAD, as well as NAASP. Such a dialogue has been ongoing, including through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) and the Asia-Africa Sub-Regional Organizations Conference, in which ASEAN has been actively participating.

I would like to reiterate ASEAN's commitment to the successful implementation of NEPAD and NAASP, which are complementary efforts, and we hope that the international community will continue to give its full support to them.

I shall now make a statement on behalf of my own country, Malaysia.

Malaysia wishes to take this opportunity to extend its best wishes to Mr. Ibrahim Agboola Gambari, Under-Secretary-General/Special Adviser on Africa, on his new assignment as Under-Secretary-General in the Department of Political Affairs, effective 1 July 2005. We are confident that the Secretary-General will expeditiously appoint a candidate of equal calibre to the post of Special Adviser on Africa, as the portfolio — which entails the promotion of international support for NEPAD and the development of Africa — is indeed very important.

As we have previously enunciated in the past, Malaysia views NEPAD as a courageous and bold undertaking by the African countries to prevent their further marginalization from the process of globalization. In their efforts to integrate with the global economy, African countries themselves must have the ownership of their development programmes, in partnership with the relevant international agencies. In that regard, we consider NEPAD to be the most viable socio-economic blueprint for bringing sustained economic growth that would, in turn, contribute to the strengthening of democracy and enable the greater enjoyment of human rights by all the peoples of the continent.

Malaysia welcomed and strongly supported the efforts to bring development into Africa through NEPAD. We commend the African countries for supporting and adopting the initiative in their development agenda. We also applaud the leaders of Africa for their continuing commitment and steadfast determination to take bold steps in promoting sustainable economic growth and social development, reducing poverty, and achieving food security and political stability in their respective countries. I wish to recall that the Non-Aligned Movement, too, at its twelfth conference of heads of State or Government in Kuala Lumpur in February 2003, commended the establishment of NEPAD and supported its full implementation.

We are all aware that Africa faces numerous, multifaceted and complex issues that are challenging and must be dealt with in a comprehensive, integrated and coordinated manner. The continent still lags behind the target of six per cent growth in gross national product per annum, as established by the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. It has been noted that Africa will require an average annual economic growth of seven per cent to enable it to reduce by half the number of people living in poverty in the continent by 2015. That can be achieved only with external assistance, particularly from the developed countries, in terms of providing financial resources and foreign direct investment and opening up markets for exports from African countries.

In that connection, we share the view of the Secretary-General that NEPAD cannot succeed without a significant increase in support from the international community and that unleashing Africa's potential for development requires harnessing the creativity and dynamism of private initiative in a range of areas, including agriculture, industry, science and technology, and infrastructure development. In that regard, Malaysia welcomes the agreement by the Group of 8 to cancel the debt of the 18 poorest countries, the majority of which are in Africa. We are also pleased with the adoption by the European Union of a set of clear timelines for reaching the 0.7 per cent target of its gross national income as official development assistance, and to double its aid to more than $80 billion a year by 2010.

Malaysia is of the view that the establishment of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) could contribute further to efforts to achieve the goals set under NEPAD. In that regard, we hope further initiatives can be undertaken to encourage and enable African countries to accede to the APRM. We also acknowledge the important contributions and roles of the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the Economic Community of Central African States, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the Southern African Development Community.

Malaysia is pleased with its existing state of relations and the level of cooperation with Africa. Nonetheless, we would continue to explore additional ways and means to further promote cooperation with countries in the continent. Malaysia's trade and economic links with Africa have grown at a satisfactory rate. In 2002, our trade with Africa totalled $1.353 billion. Last year, in 2004, it rose to $2.215 billion, an increase of 64 per cent within a span of two years. Malaysia will continue to encourage its private sector to promote and further enhance its close

economic ties with its counterparts in the African countries for our mutual benefit.

Since 1980, within the framework of the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme, Malaysia has offered technical cooperation in areas in which it has comparative advantage in term of experience and expertise to 46 African countries. Malaysia considers this programme as its modest but useful contribution to Africa in the context of South-South cooperation. We have also engaged African partners, at both the governmental and private sector levels, through the annual Langkawi International Dialogue and the Southern African International Dialogue, convened under the auspices of the Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management. Malaysia participated as an observer in the Third Tokyo International Conference on African Development and looks forward to actively participating again in TICAD IV in Japan in 2008. Malaysia also supports the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership adopted at the 2005 Asian-African Summit in Jakarta.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm Malaysia's commitment to cooperating with our African brothers and sisters in their collective efforts towards achieving peace, sustainable development and prosperity in their countries. Malaysia reiterates that it will do its utmost, within its limited means and capacity, to join others in assisting Africa, a continent that holds tremendous resources and potential, in developing its own capacity to fully integrate into the world economy.

Mr. Abdelaziz (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, let me express our appreciation for the reports of the Secretary-General on the agenda items under discussion. We endorse the statements made by the representative of Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by the representative of Namibia on behalf of the Group of African States. We also thank you, Sir, for your opening statement at this meeting, which made a unique contribution to our debate.

The outcome document of the recent High-level Plenary Meeting stresses the need to strengthen international support for Africa so that it can meet its special needs. The heads of State and Government particularly emphasized the central role of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the ideal framework in which the international community and the United Nations can mobilize efforts to assist the African countries to build a better future for coming generations.

Egypt attaches particular importance to that initiative because it is based on realities in Africa and on a comprehensive vision of the challenges and problems the continent is facing. It is also based on the achievement of a genuine international development partnership in which Africa and the developed States can work in earnest to attain African and global development objectives.

Egypt has taken several leading measures at various levels to support NEPAD. Egypt hosted the thirteenth summit of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee in Sharm el-Sheikh in April. We feel that there is an urgent need to activate the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) in order to help Africa to strengthen democracy, good governance and respect for human rights, and Egypt has therefore made a voluntary contribution of $1 million to the APRM Trust Fund, in addition to its regular annual contribution of $100,000.

With respect to health, HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases, President Mubarak has undertaken to establish an African centre to combat HIV/AIDS and endemic diseases, in the context of Egypt's commitment to strengthening African capacities to attain the priority goals of the Millennium Summit by enhancing South-South cooperation and by drawing on international expertise and assistance. Work has already begun on the creation of the centre in Egypt, in accordance with the decision taken at a meeting of the African ministers of health in Egypt last June.

With respect to market access and agriculture, Egypt hosted a regional meeting for North Africa to draw up projects to be implemented in the context of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme. It also hosted a meeting of African ministers of trade to consider ways to enhance Africa's access to international markets, as set out in the Cairo Declaration elaborating Africa's unified position vis-à-vis the agenda of the World Trade Organization planning meeting to be held in Hong Kong in December.

We would stress in particular the need for the international community to fulfil its commitments to Africa by mobilizing financial resources to implement African projects. We warmly welcome the constructive

discussions that took place in the context of the recent NEPAD forum on the financing and implementation of African projects, held in London. We hope that an agreement can be reached as soon as possible on funding African projects, reflecting the various commitments of the developed countries to our continent.

Meeting at Gleneagles, the industrialized nations of the G-8 pledged to cancel the debts of 18 least developed countries, 14 of which are in Africa. While that initiative was highly important, we hope that it will be broadened ever further to cover the wider area of the foreign debt burden that weighs heavily on all the indebted countries of Africa, including the medium-income States.

Furthermore, the commitment of the developed countries must not be limited to the relief of external debt. We hope that they will open their markets to Africa's products and help it to increase production and diversify its exports. We also hope that they will stabilize basic commodity prices and raise their official development assistance to the internationally agreed levels. Finally, we hope to cooperate with the developed countries in implementing the agreements reached in the Millennium Declaration Goals, particularly the Millennium Development Goals, as they pertain to meeting Africa's needs at all levels.

Egypt wishes to underline its endorsement of the conclusions of the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict in Africa (A/60/182). The report presents a unique vision of the achievements, challenges and threats in the area of peace and security on the African continent, as well as regional and international initiatives taken in that regard.

Today's debate comes at a crucial moment, as we are working to act on the decisions, recommendations and commitments made at September's High-level Plenary Meeting, as contained in the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1). The outcome document included commitments to strengthen African peacekeeping and peacebuilding capacities through the growing structure of the African Union, in addition to the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission. We stress the need for a multidimensional approach to the concept of peace and security and its profound inter-relationship with the achievement of sustainable development in the African continent. In that respect, we underline the complementary roles of the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, regional organizations, international financial institutions and the funds and programmes of the United Nations.

Following the establishment of priorities and strategies by African Governments, we hope that a decision on creating the Peacebuilding Commission can be reached by the end of the year. We call for more institutional cooperation between NEPAD and the United Nations, in particular because NEPAD, following guidelines laid down by the African Union, is developing a strategic policy framework for dealing with the challenges of the post-conflict phase and reconstruction. The Peacebuilding Commission should take into account African points of view and priorities with respect to peacebuilding on the continent.

We welcome the report's thorough description of priorities on the African continent, in particular the continuing negative impact of the illegal exploitation of natural resources in conflict areas. Egypt calls on the Security Council to give particular attention to that problem when dealing with the causes of armed conflicts in Africa, because it is well known that the illegal exploitation of natural resources in conflict areas is a main cause of the persistence of armed conflicts. Furthermore, the problem is linked to the illegal trade in small arms and light weapons.

Finally, the report transmitted by the Secretary-General in his note (A/60/208) makes clear that attaining the Millennium Development Goal of halting malaria by 2015 requires greater financial resources on the domestic and international levels. In fact, with $3 billion spent annually on combating malaria, it is very important to develop vaccines and diversified treatments, given the disease's resistance to current antimalarial treatments. We believe that more medical research is required for new therapies and vaccines to combat potential new strains of malaria. Governments and pharmaceutical companies should increase investment in order to provide affordable treatments to people in developing countries.

It is not impossible to eliminate malaria. In 1998, Egypt successfully moved out of the category of countries in which malaria is endemic, thanks to strenuous and persistent efforts to fully eliminate the disease except for a few cases coming from outside the country. The Egyptian programme to eliminate malaria has been a success in all respects. For that reason,

Egypt would like to share its experience with interested countries in Africa and elsewhere.

Ms. Núñez Mordoche (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, my delegation wishes to associate itself with the statement made by the Ambassador of Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Many identify the African continent with idyllic postcards of safaris on its great prairies or with the much-repeated images of the ills afflicting that continent, as if nothing else was worth mentioning and as if its men and women did not exist. It is as if the ancestral wisdom of Africa's peoples did not deserve careful study and preservation.

For Cubans, Africa is not a legend from some distant time and place. For Cubans, Africa is an essential part of what we are and what we hope to build in the future. Thus, it is absurd to speak of the Cuban nation merely from a Eurocentric perspective.

During the colonial period, 1.3 million black slaves were uprooted from their homelands to work in the plantations of the Spanish society of that time. They came from different ethnic groups: the Lukumí, Carabalí, Congo, Ganga, Mandingo, Mina, Bibi and Yoruba. To be sure, the colonizers amassed huge fortunes, thanks to the toil of those peoples, but they could not prevent the slaves from passing on their languages to us, along with their religious beliefs, their music and their temperament. Cuba changed forever.

Similar situations occurred throughout almost the entire American continent and the West Indies. The route of slavery was an integral part of the flagrant exploitation and the impoverishment of Africa. Today, many try to ignore, justify and, even worse, erase that sad episode of modern history.

Much has been said of the current conditions in Africa and the accumulated needs of the region. Many of those who claim to be concerned about the region have not shown much interest in changing the essential problem, after centuries of exploitation and plundering.

As long as the current political and economic order prevails — in which a few consume almost everything and the majority of the planet's population is left excluded from the so-called benefits of neo-liberal globalization — Africa will remain marginalized, and the legacy of colonialism will never come to an end.

If the Governments of the region continue to be told to implement failed structural adjustment policies, Africa will continue to finance the opulence of rich countries. The developed countries will make new promises of official development assistance and will perhaps fulfil some of those promises, but they will keep collecting hundreds of times the amount of the promised assistance as service on external debt. Today, Africa spends four times as much on debt servicing as it does on education and health care combined.

Cuba firmly believes in the ability of African leaders to find solutions for the conflict situations that have a devastating effect on the economic and social advancement of the region and create an additional obstacle to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The steps taken recently in that direction through the hard work of the African Union are proof of this. Cuba will continue to support the African Union and all other regional cooperation mechanisms as they work to find their own solutions to the problems of Africa. There have been many regional efforts to that end, and more than anything else they require from the United Nations an integrated focus on the resolution of problems related to Africa's peace, security and development.

Regional efforts require the cessation of foreign interference, the total elimination of mercenary activities and an end to disputes among transnational corporations to control the vast mineral resources of the continent, so that the profits from their sale are finally used to eradicate definitively poverty, improve health conditions and guarantee education for all the inhabitants of the continent.

A cardinal principle of Cuba's foreign policy is the principled practice of internationalism and solidarity with other peoples of the world. Cuba did not desert Africans in their struggle against colonialism, and we never asked for anything in return. When the apartheid regime was defeated, the Cubans took home only the mortal remains of our fighters.

Our policy of collaboration with African countries, implemented since the early years of the Cuban revolution, is carried out through diplomatic relations with 52 of the countries of the region, our 30 accredited diplomatic missions in the area, and the 22 African missions based in Havana. In addition, we have maintained a policy of defending African interests in all international forums.

Cuba has given material reality to its selfless solidarity and cooperation to almost all the countries of the region. The main sectors of interaction are health care, education, sports, agriculture, fisheries, construction, water resources and physical planning. To date, some 30,000 young African students have been graduated from Cuban educational institutions.

The Cuban proposal, presented at the twenty-sixth special session of the General Assembly, on HIV/AIDS, to provide medical personnel to help fight the serious effects of the pandemic, still stands. It would be enough if those with larger financial resources decided to contribute to a programme of triangular cooperation, the results of which would be immediately noticeable.

Mr. Toro Jiménez (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Our African experience shows that, more than money, what is needed is serious political will to improve cooperation, addressing the priorities identified by local authorities and showing respect for the traditions and cultures of the beneficiaries of cooperation.

Cuba is making efforts despite being a country of scarce resources and having been subjected to a strict economic, commercial and financial embargo for more than four decades.

The people of Africa have a right to peace, a just international order and sustainable development. They do not need paternalism; they need training of human capital and access to markets and technologies. They do not need hypocritical lessons on what is in their best interest. Africa deserves, above all, solidarity and respect.

Mr. Hachani (Tunisia) (*spoke in French*): My delegation aligns itself with the statements made by Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by Namibia on behalf of the African Group.

By dedicating part of its recommendations to the specific needs of Africa, the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting (resolution 60/1) confirmed the priority attached to Africa by the international community and the United Nations system. It also affirmed the urgent need to put this consensus into practice at various levels by setting up a genuine partnership for development for Africa, which has long been weakened by the horrors of armed conflict, instability and poverty and pandemics.

The emphasis placed on malaria during today's debate is very significant in this connection. The final document calls for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) — a comprehensive and integrated programme to promote Africa's development and the basis for cooperation with its partners — to be provided with the financial, material and institutional means required for it to effectively function. Yet despite the determination of the African countries and the commitment of their partners, the implementation of this important African programme requires greater mobilization on the part of the international community and better coordination of its means of intervention.

The Secretary-General's third consolidated report on progress in implementation and international support for NEPAD (A/60/178) particularly emphasizes this and advocates strengthening national and regional capacities in the area of the implementation of NEPAD to ensure that coordination and coherence exist between national development plans and NEPAD priorities. My delegation shares that view, but we believe that the process of macroeconomic reform and human development requires financial, human and technical resources currently well beyond the means of many African countries. Hence the structural need for outside help commensurate with these needs.

In this connection, Tunisia welcomes the conclusions of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (*see A/60/16*) regarding a renewed United Nations commitment to provide effective and coordinated assistance to the various NEPAD programmes and to identifying innovative approaches for funding its priorities.

Africa is undoubtedly the region most affected by the contrasts of the contemporary world. Despite its determination to become self-sufficient by adopting plans for restructuring and upgrading, despite its progress on settling conflicts that have long stood in the way of development in numerous countries, and despite its high priority on the world agenda, Africa is lagging far behind in the timetable for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

There can be no doubt that the development process depends to a great extent on the international economic and financial context. Consequently, creating

an environment conducive to the development of Africa — which is also a pillar of the process of implementation of the NEPAD priorities — is a prerequisite for achieving stable and permanent balance in the regional and subregional political and economic order. That would enable Africa to speed up the process of integration into the world economy and to gradually do away with the sources and hotbeds of conflict. The interaction between development and security has been clearly proven. Peace will always remain fragile and subject to reverses without a propitious economic environment and real development prospects.

In this context, we should welcome the efforts made by the African Union, particularly the establishment of the Peace and Security Council, for the prevention, management and settlement of conflict and post-conflict situations are among the prerequisites for implementation of the MDGs and the NEPAD priorities. Likewise, for the Peace and Security Council to be able to discharge its mandate, it is essential to continue to provide better institutional harmonization of its actions with those of the United Nations. The implementation of the decision to create a Peacebuilding Commission will undoubtedly provide a very valuable instrument in that connection.

Finally, we hope that the Office of the Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on Africa, responsible among other things for relations with NEPAD, will continue to grow in strength.

Mr. Suresh Kurup (India): We thank the Secretary-General for the third consolidated report on the progress in implementation and international support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and other reports prepared for this item. We associate ourselves with the statement made by the representative of Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77.

Crafting partnerships among the African countries and between Africa and the rest of the international community lies at the core of NEPAD. With its abundance of natural resources and the tremendous capacity of its peoples to be agents of change, Africa holds the key to its own development. We are convinced that success in achieving the objectives of NEPAD will depend on an African-led and Africa-developed agenda. The issues and challenges facing Africa, and their solutions, are best known to African countries themselves. They have demonstrated their commitment to advancing the implementation of NEPAD through a number of measures. Africa needs concerted international support for the solutions that it has identified.

The report of the Secretary-General's Advisory Panel on International Support for NEPAD (A/60/85) emphasizes the need to move from rhetoric to action. It cautions that special initiatives in support of African development have failed in the past to live up to the promises made or to their potential. During the past ten months, we have had the opportunity to discuss the special needs of Africa in the context of the Secretary-General's report "In larger freedom" (A/59/2005), and earlier during discussions of the Millennium Project report. The Advisory Panel has observed that these and other documents have stressed that significant additional financial assistance over an extended period of time will be needed to meet Africa's human needs and development goals. The Panel, while noting that humanitarian assistance has been critical in saving lives, urges development partners to provide assistance on a long-term basis, rather than responding only when a crisis arises.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 59/250, entitled "Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system", has also highlighted the need for the early provision of development assistance even as the international community begins to provide humanitarian assistance. The international community needs to remain engaged during the period of transition from relief to development.

The report of the Advisory Panel has put forward some ideas, emphasizing, inter alia, the need for investment in Africa's human resources; development of its private sector, apart from increases in aid levels; debt relief; completion of the Doha round of multilateral trade negotiations; and improvement in the quality and coordination of support provided by the United Nations. Through a variety of initiatives, India has consistently endeavoured to be a friend and partner of Africa in its developmental efforts in many of the areas identified by the Advisory Panel.

It has been India's objective to impart a substantive economic content to our relationship with Africa. Despite limited resources, India has, over the years, made contributions to several Africa-specific

funds and programmes. The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme has over many decades provided a framework for enhancing cooperation between India and African countries. A large number of African students have shared in the benefits of the Indian education system. India's contribution of $200 million for engagement with NEPAD projects and the formation of a new group — TEAM-9, the Techno-Economic Approach for Africa-India Movement — are specific examples of India's contribution to solidarity with Africa and of South-South cooperation. Over the last six months, projects amounting to some $84.3 million have been approved within the framework of the NEPAD line of credit, and several projects, supported by India under the TEAM-9 programme, have also been approved.

The Advisory Panel has highlighted the importance of trade and investments in Africa. Over the last few years, economic and commercial ties have grown between India and Africa and trade has risen sharply. India imports substantially from Africa, and Indian joint ventures in Africa cover a range of products. India also has fairly extensive investments in a number of countries in Africa.

India has started work on a connectivity mission in Africa which will support tele-education, tele-medicine, e-commerce, e-governance, info-tainment, resource-mapping and meteorological services. A seamless and integrated satellite, fibre optics and wireless network to be provided by India will connect five universities, 51 learning centres, 10 super-speciality hospitals and 53 patient-end locations in rural areas all over Africa and will provide videoconferencing facilities connecting all 53 heads of State and Government in Africa. The Pan-African Network Project has been formally endorsed by the African Union (AU), and it is expected that a memorandum of understanding between the Government of India and the AU will be signed during the visit of a high-level AU team to India, from 25 to 29 October 2005. This is a landmark project that will assist our friends in Africa in meeting Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in education and health care.

India and Africa have a common fight against poverty and disease. India is putting together a substantial initiative to assist in Africa's fight against HIV/AIDS and other pandemics. We hope to encourage Indian pharmaceutical companies to establish production facilities in Africa to cater to the increasing requirement for affordable medicines, especially for antiretroviral drugs. There is need for the international community to urgently provide resources for an expanded and comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS and other diseases.

From 1960 to 1973, African Governments pursued activist policies in protecting industries and defending livelihoods, but the 1973 oil crisis led to serious indebtedness, worsened by the International Monetary Fund's structural adjustment policies. The results are visible today in the challenges faced by sub-Saharan Africa. The Millennium Project report highlighted the problems of sub-Saharan Africa and the poverty trap — that is, low tax returns, low saving rates and the like. Debt-constrained structural adjustment policies compounded the problem through a decline in agricultural investment. The region got the worst of both worlds because of the agricultural policies of developed countries that were underpinned by enormous subsidies.

The fulcrum of international economic endeavour is Millennium Development Goal 8, as well as paragraphs 42, 44 and 62 of the Monterrey Consensus. Delivery on these issues is essential for fulfilling the objectives of NEPAD. Achievement of the MDGs in a sustained manner, leading to real economic transformation, is hardly possible without more and effective debt relief, a fundamental reform of international economic and monetary institutions and a successful realization of the development agenda of the Doha round.

Against this backdrop, India has consistently supported proposals in the United Nations to convert into grants all remaining official bilateral debt of the poorest African countries and has supported the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Debt Initiative. India did its part by writing off the debt owed by African countries under the HIPC Initiative and by restructuring commercial debt. The debt problems faced by many low- and middle-income developing countries continue to severely constrain their ability to accelerate economic development and to achieve the MDGs.

We welcome the G-8 proposal for irrevocable debt cancellation for the HIPC countries, a proposal that has generated high expectations in eligible countries. The modalities for the implementation of

this initiative need to be further clarified, notably on additional resources, the possible inclusion of additional beneficiary countries, and policy conditionalities such as privatization and trade liberalization, which have in some cases been detrimental to development.

We note from the Secretary-General's report that many recent trends in Africa have been positive, that the number of major conflicts has been reduced and that most African countries enjoy relatively stable political conditions, with the majority having democratically elected Governments. We hope that these developments will provide the basis for an environment conducive to economic growth and development. An important factor in addressing the causes of conflict and contributing to durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, cited by the Secretary-General's report, is the commitment of the international community, including United Nations organizations, to allocate increased financial, human and technical resources.

For its part, India has participated in almost every peacekeeping mission in Africa and has over 5,000 peacekeepers now serving in Africa. In this context, we have supported the establishment of a Peacebuilding Commission that aims to address the special needs of countries emerging from conflict towards recovery, reintegration and reconstruction. We look forward to its becoming functional by the end of this year.

The 2005 World Summit Outcome document (resolution 60/1) welcomed the substantial progress made by the African countries in fulfilling their commitments and emphasized the need to carry forward the implementation of NEPAD. Through that document, our leaders expressed their resolve to strengthen cooperation with NEPAD by providing coherent support for the programmes drawn up by African leaders within that framework. The outcome document contains several substantive proposals. We hope to see appropriate follow-up mechanisms put in place in pursuit of those proposals.

India's solidarity with Africa in the struggle against colonialism and apartheid, its peacekeeping operations in Africa since the 1960s and its economic and scientific collaboration with Africa today are aimed not just at maintaining peace and territorial integrity, but at empowering Africa economically and politically, in both national and international political and economic decision-making. It is hoped that the best will not be sacrificed to the good. While maintaining the principle of non-discrimination, we should recall that, historically, no struggles for empowerment have ever achieved success in one fell swoop, but rather through a process of negotiations and over time. Any alternative may run the risk of prolonging the state of lack of full empowerment.

Mr. Chulkov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): I should like at the outset to take this opportunity to express once again, on behalf of the Russian delegation, our deep condolences to the peoples of Pakistan, India and Afghanistan affected by the catastrophic earthquake of 8 October. We would also like to express our solidarity with the Governments of those countries. Along with a number of other countries, the Russian Federation responded to the tragedy without delay by sending search and rescue teams, doctors, special equipment, and humanitarian aid to the areas of disaster.

Turning now to the agenda items under discussion today, I should like to say, first of all, that the Russian Federation notes with satisfaction the progress made in recent years towards settling conflicts in Africa, especially in Sierra Leone, Burundi, Sudan, Liberia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. At the same time, the general situation on the continent is still far from stable. We consider the strengthening of stability in Africa to be a priority for the international community in order to build, under the auspices of the United Nations, a global system to counter the threats and challenges of the modern world. We will not achieve the harmonious and sustainable development of international relations if the African continent remains a hotbed of instability.

We stand for close interaction between the United Nations, African regional and subregional entities and individual States so as to develop harmonized and integrated approaches to the settlement of conflicts in the region, which should be based on predominance of political and diplomatic methods and strict compliance with the peacekeeping norms and principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations. This has been confirmed by the adoption at the 14 September Security Council summit of Council resolution 1625 (2005), on strengthening the effectiveness of the Security Council's role in conflict prevention, particularly in Africa, sponsored by the Group of African States.

In keeping with its status as a permanent member of the Security Council, Russia has been making a significant contribution to peacekeeping activities on the continent, including the development of a strategy for settling specific armed conflicts and defining the mandates of the relevant peacekeeping operations within the Security Council. Russian military personnel and law-enforcement officers — as of now totalling some 220 persons — are involved in almost all United Nations peacekeeping operations in Africa.

Russia is also conducting training for African peacekeepers. At present, we are considering the possibility of broadening our cooperation in this area with the African countries. We intend to continue to promote stability in Africa in every possible way and to assist African countries in building their own anti-crisis capacity.

We support the new approach in United Nations peacekeeping practice of ensuring close interaction among the United Nations missions deployed in neighbouring African States. It is of critical importance that this be well coordinated. Here, however, we should be particularly careful: coordinated activities of the United Nations forces should be sanctioned of the Security Council and be based on the principles of full respect for the sovereignty of individual States and the consent of the troop-contributing countries; they should not go beyond the mandates defined for each individual mission.

In the context of the efforts to stabilize post-conflict situations in Africa, we recognize the considerable potential of the future Peacebuilding Commission. We hope that Member States will swiftly reach agreement on all the issues related to its activities. We are convinced that, above all, active participation of the African States themselves is required to ensure a more durable peace on the continent. It is important to take measures against illegal armed groups; to strengthen good-neighbourly relations; to enhance cooperation on ensuring the security of borders and their impenetrability with respect to the spilling over of conflicts, arms and mercenaries; and to eradicate mass violations of international humanitarian law and eliminate impunity for crimes against humanity. We appreciate the efforts made by the African community in this area, and we welcome the vigorous activities of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, including those aimed at establishing an African standby force.

The Russian Federation attaches great importance to international cooperation in promoting the development of African countries, which we view through the prism of their achieving the Millennium Development Goals through implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). We are pleased to note that the work within the social and economic dimensions of NEPAD is gathering pace, as demonstrated by the fruitful ongoing efforts made by African countries to develop infrastructure, modernize agriculture and education and fight the spread of infectious diseases. Our country, a responsible member of the international community, is contributing to speeding those processes by acting simultaneously on several tracks.

As a member of the Group of Eight, Russia actively participates in the implementation of the Group's Africa Action Plan, which aims at promoting work within NEPAD, and Russia continues to pay great attention to resolving urgent issues of the social and economic development of the African continent.

Debt relief for the countries of the region remains a major focus of our assistance to Africa, including through the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Debt Initiative. So far, Russia has cancelled or pledged to cancel $11.3 billion of the debt of African countries, including more then $2 billion through the HIPC Initiative. In 2003-2004, Russia contributed an additional $10 million to the Initiative Trust Fund. For 2005-2006, it decided to pay an additional $15 million to the Fund, and the first instalment — $5 million — has already been transferred.

In the context of the Paris Club, Russia has pledged to cancel more than $1 billion of the debt of Ethiopia. We continue our work on settling the debt of African countries on a bilateral basis. Russia has signed relevant agreements with Sao Tome and Principe, Burundi and Nigeria and has held negotiations with Zambia, Angola, Ethiopia, the Republic of the Congo and Chad.

Russia has decided to contribute approximately $60 million to the 14th Replenishment of the International Development Association for 2006-2014. Sub-Saharan African countries will receive some 49 per cent of that amount.

Our country continues to provide a preferential customs tariff regime for goods produced in African countries. That promotes the expansion of our trade

with African countries, which totalled $638 million in the first nine months of 2004, an increase of approximately 25 per cent over the same period in 2003.

We believe that investment in human resources is an important element of aid to the continent. That is why we assist African countries in the training of their national staff. Every year, Russia provides over 700 State-funded scholarships.

Russia has become a more active donor country in providing emergency humanitarian aid. In 2004, we provided bilateral humanitarian aid to Morocco and Mali. Our partnerships with multilateral donors, primarily the World Food Programme, is developing vigorously. Starting this year, Russia will make regular contributions to the Programme's humanitarian activities.

We are aware of the urgency of the problems related to the spread of malaria in Africa. We approach the issue not only from the medical point of view but also from the standpoint of its negative impact on the social and economic development of the continent. That is why we favour stepping up international efforts agreed within the United Nations to reduce the spread of that pandemic in Africa.

In accordance with that position, we have made multifaceted health care aid to the continent an essential component of our assistance. In addition to our previous commitments to make voluntary contributions of $20 million to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Government of the Russian Federation has decided to double that sum by raising our consolidated payment to $40 million by 2008. So far, we have transferred $15 million of that amount to the Fund. This year, we completed payment of the $8 million that we pledged to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative that in 2003-2004.

Many experts acknowledge that Africa may not achieve its development goals by 2015. At the same time, the international community has done a great deal this year to show its solidarity with the continent. Many countries have made serious commitments to provide assistance to the continent. The time has come to act on those promises. The Russian Federation, for its part, intends to help fulfil that task in every possible way.

Mr. Wang Guangya (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): The Chinese delegation wishes to thank the Secretary-General for his third consolidated report on progress in implementation and international support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (A/60/178) and the Report of the Secretary-General's Advisory Panel on International Support for NEPAD (A/60/85).

We support the statement made by Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Africa is part of our world, globalization having closely linked all five continents. Global development cannot be achieved without Africa's prosperity. From the Millennium Declaration and NEPAD to the recent 2005 summit, attention to Africa is being reflected in new actions.

We are pleased to note that the African countries have made enormous efforts to implement NEPAD. They have adopted positive measures in the areas of infrastructure, information and communication technologies, public health, education, the environment, tourism, agriculture, science and technology and industrialization. We highly appreciate all those endeavours. Over the past year, the international community's attention and assistance to Africa's development have increased. Some developed countries have made new commitments in terms of official development assistance to Africa and debt relief. The developing countries have also made assistance to Africa an important part of South-South cooperation. All that shows that we have taken a major step to promote Africa's development.

However, as noted in the report, implementing NEPAD remains a complex and painstaking process. Aside from international support and the efforts of the African countries themselves, we need to make far greater efforts for the African continent, where help is needed in all undertakings. African countries need to further strengthen their efforts to implement national development strategies. And the international community should take effective measures of all kinds to assist and support African countries, including a substantial increase in aid. In this respect, we endorse the useful recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General.

As regards future international support to Africa in implementing NEPAD, the Chinese delegation wishes to emphasize the following points.

First, aid pledges should be fulfilled at an early date. During this year's summit, it was reiterated by all participants that the complexity of Africa's development has become a poverty trap that cannot be broken by Africa alone. Only by rendering huge and diversified international support can we help Africa to escape its predicament. Whether because of historical obligations or deficiencies in the current international economic order, the developed countries have responsibilities that they cannot shirk. We commend the pledges made by the European Union, the G-8 and other major developed countries to increase official development assistance to Africa and debt relief. But, this only marks the first step. In their quest to reach the MDGs, the African countries and peoples are racing against time. We hope that the developed countries will display the same sense of urgency and fulfil their pledges at an early date so as to help African countries to solve urgent problems and build capacities for self-development.

Secondly, vigorous efforts should be made to improve monitoring. Africa's own efforts and international support are the two major pillars of NEPAD. African countries have established a peer review mechanism to conduct regular evaluation of their own efforts. To ensure more real results from international support, it is necessary to have corresponding mechanisms to monitor implementation so as to produce more accurate and detailed reports and relevant recommendations on progress achieved with international support.

Thirdly, country ownership should be respected. The international community, in offering aid to Africa, should trust the wisdom of African Governments and peoples and respect their choice of development path, so as to ensure the ownership, leadership and full policy space of the recipient countries. This not only reflects the spirit of equality and mutual respect but is also an important way to give play to Africa's creativity and tap its potential.

Fourthly, South-South cooperation should be expanded further. In the process of development, the developing countries have always understood and supported each other. Under the current circumstances, South-South cooperation, based on marked progress already achieved, will have even greater prospects. We are in favour of continued efforts to explore new ways for South-South cooperation, exchange views, learn from each other and strengthen trade, investment and technical cooperation, thus enhancing Africa's development.

Whether it is in the past struggle for national independence and liberation or in the present pursuit of peace and development, the Chinese people have always stood firmly with the fraternal people of Africa. It is an important component of China's foreign policy to consolidate and develop friendly relations and cooperate with African countries, support and assist African countries and peoples in economic development and social progress.

As an important step to reinforce South-South cooperation, China and African countries established the China-Africa Cooperation Forum in 2000, which laid down a comprehensive and detailed plan for China-Africa cooperation. Its key areas are generally identical with the priority areas of NEPAD.

In 2004, the Chinese Government signed loan agreements with 43 African countries, focusing on agricultural development, infrastructure, human resources training, medical care and public health. On 1 January 2005, China instituted zero tariffs on some commodities from the 25 least-developed countries in Africa, covering 190 tariff lines. In 2004, China's direct investment in Africa reached $135 million, a record high for China's annual direct investment in Africa.

At the separate meeting on financing for development during this year's summit, President Hu Jintao announced five new measures for strengthening South-South cooperation, including increased aid to developing countries for prevention and treatment of malaria and other infectious diseases, debt cancellation for the highly indebted poor countries, the wide-range three-year training programme for 30,000 trainees from developing countries and the three-year $10 billion preferential loan programme for developing countries. The Chinese Government is ready to implement the relevant programmes through the China-Africa Cooperation Forum and other cooperation channels so as to support Africa in enhancing development and implementing NEPAD.

Mr. Kumalo (South Africa): My delegation wishes to thank the Secretary-General for his reports on the items we are discussing today. My delegation also wishes to associate itself with the statements made by Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, by Namibia on behalf of the African Union and by

Lesotho on behalf of the Southern African Development Community.

We are pleased that the Secretary-General has acknowledged in his report on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) that there has been greater international response in support of Africa's development, including the mobilization of international public opinion. At the same time, the Secretary-General concludes that much more needs to be done and that, therefore, international cooperation in support of NEPAD needs to be enhanced.

Through NEPAD, African leaders have not only taken ownership and leadership of the continent's socio-economic renewal agenda but they have also transformed the content of the development agenda and are making progress in changing the international context as well. The New Partnership is now just four years old. The key principles of NEPAD remain African ownership in the promotion of socio-economic development, the advancement of democracy, promotion of human rights and good governance.

Through NEPAD, African leaders have created a comprehensive and holistic approach to development. The NEPAD policies and priorities have resulted in an internationally agreed framework for Africa's development.

The reports and recent indications show that implementation of NEPAD programmes is poised to accelerate in the coming years. As we heard today from many speakers, preparations and consultations — for example for the rollout of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme — have been concluded. African subregional communities and African Governments have already identified high priority projects and early actions that need to be undertaken. African Governments have also committed themselves to increasing national budget allocations for agriculture to 10 per cent per annum over the next five years. Good progress is also being made in the implementation of other NEPAD programmes, including health, information and communications technologies, education, energy, environment, science and technology and gender issues.

The peer review process, as agreed by Africans, has been designed by Africans themselves and is therefore, also African owned. Its principles have their roots in African traditions and processes that may not necessarily translate easily to other situations. The African Peer Review Mechanism enables each African country to assess the progress it is making towards the achievement of Africa's shared goals. This is a country review rather than merely a review of Government performance. It takes into account the fact that national development in any country is driven by a multiplicity of social forces.

The African Peer Mechanism is, therefore, enabling rather than prescriptive, specifying objectives and standards and providing indicative definitions of criteria and examples of indicators so as to ensure broad coherence at the country level and uniformity at the continental level.

At the end of September 2005, South Africa held a two-day national consultative conference, where delegates from government, business, trade unions, academia and the entire spectrum of civil society launched the South African peer review process. Consistent with our Government's commitment to a people-driven process of progressive change, South Africa supports the inclusive approach of the conclusions of the peer review process. This is especially important, given that peer review will conclude with a programme of action to address whatever shortfalls are identified by the review. In this context, our Government believes that it is essential that all South Africans should own this programme of action and work towards implementing it.

This year marks an important milestone in the African continent's efforts to combat malaria. Five years ago, African heads of State and Government signed the Abuja Declaration and Framework for Action for the Fight Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Diseases, which committed their countries to reaching specific targets on malaria prevention and control by 2005. Although much progress is being made in the fight against malaria, major interventions are still needed. If uncontrolled, malaria will continue to be a major economic burden on African economies. Statistics already show that in one year malaria has claimed the lives of 1 million people worldwide, 90 per cent of whom have been from Africa. Combating malaria is possible only if there is concerted and coordinated action among all stakeholders.

My delegation concurs with the Secretary-General's progress report on "Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and

promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa" (A/60/182) that the African Union has made substantial progress in conflict prevention on the continent. One of the key changes is the way in which Africa is leading in the resolution of conflicts and managing peacebuilding by providing strong leadership from African countries themselves.

The African Union has the primary responsibility for the peace and security architecture on the continent, primarily through the African Union's Peace and Security Council. As the Secretary-General's report outlined, socio-economic development is essential to peace and security, and therefore NEPAD's role in peace and security relates to post-conflict reconstruction and to mobilization of the necessary resources. In that context, Africa is finalizing an African Post-Conflict Reconstruction Policy Framework aimed at enhancing the capacities of all internal actors. Detailed strategies for post-conflict reconstruction have been developed in consultation with African experts and other development partners.

My delegation also concurs with the Secretary-General's reports that the main challenge remaining for the development of Africa is the implementation of a truly global and equitable partnership through the honouring of the international community's commitments. It is therefore clear that despite all the actions and commitments of African countries and institutions themselves, the main constraint remains the lack of adequate resources for implementation.

In that regard, the global partnership for Africa's development needs to change, among other things, by means of the manner in which the multilateral development financing institutions support infrastructure development in Africa. It is also critical that they create special mechanisms for the financing of subregional infrastructure projects.

Secondly, the international community should translate promises into concrete actions, especially with regard to the promised significant increases in development assistance flows and the harmonization and simplification of aid procedures. Our calculations indicate that pledges made, if fulfilled, would increase flows of official development assistance to Africa to $44 billion in 2010 and to $61 billion in 2015. Although that would be a significant increase, it would still fall short of the amount required to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Thirdly, it is important to address the impediments to the effectiveness of development assistance. We acknowledge that there is now a broad consensus that such assistance has been compromised by a number of factors that have fuelled the perception that Africa lacks the capacity to absorb and effectively use increased funds. In reality, the problem is that funding has often been provided piecemeal by individual donors for single short-term programmes that carry heavy transaction costs and often require the creation of parallel infrastructures.

Fourthly, the debt cancellation movement — which began after exhaustive advocacy on the part of African leaders and their partners at the Group of Eight summit and which was recently confirmed at the annual board meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund — can only be applauded, and we hope it will be speedily implemented. NEPAD will monitor the implementation of the initiative and continue to call for the extension of debt relief to all least developed countries in Africa and for similar bold actions with regard to the trade-distorting agricultural subsidies of developed countries.

The lack of concrete and sufficiently quantified and detailed African development strategies and action plans can no longer be cited as a reason for lack of progress in a real partnership between Africa and the international community. Africa is doing its part, and it is now up to our international partners to join in that true partnership so that the lives of ordinary African people can be improved.

In conclusion, South Africa calls on the international community to implement, in 2006, a concrete programme of action, as called for in the Millennium Declaration and in the outcome document (resolution 60/1) of the 2005 world summit, so that Africa can be assisted in achieving the MDGs by 2015.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

United Nations A/60/PV.32

General Assembly
Sixtieth session

Official Records

32nd plenary meeting
Thursday, 13 October 2005, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Eliasson ..... (Sweden)

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda items 66 and 47 (continued)

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

(a) New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

Report of the Secretary-General (A/60/178)

Note by the Secretary-General (A/60/85)

(b) Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General (A/60/182)

2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa

Note by the Secretary-General (A/60/208)

Mr. Løvald (Norway): This year has been one of unprecedented international attention to Africa's development. Norway welcomes that. We are strongly committed to the fight against poverty, to working with African countries and institutions and — together with our international partners — to promoting a reform agenda that can bring about positive changes for the people of Africa. For that reason, we fully subscribe to the Africa Action Plan, and will continue to play an active role within the Africa Partnership Forum, in close cooperation with our African partners and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

The challenge is to sustain the level of international attention and ensure the implementation of the commitments made. Last week in London, the Africa Partnership Forum took up the key role that it has been assigned to monitor and advance commitments affecting Africa's development. Norway, as the country holding the co-chairmanship in 2006, intends to do its best to ensure that Africa Partnership Forum can fulfil its role and develop a mutual monitoring process to assess progress. The pioneering work by the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on mutual review of development effectiveness is an important contribution in that context.

In order to achieve our aims for Africa's development, we will have to address a number of issues. First of all, we will have to reform the international framework conditions, which means debt cancellation and improved trade and investment regimes. Promising steps on debt relief have already been taken by the Bretton Woods institutions, and we look forward to their implementation. To reduce poverty and achieve progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, the poorer countries in Africa must also be able to acquire their own income, and that can be achieved primarily through trade. Market access is thus crucial, and in that respect the successful conclusion of the ongoing Doha round in the World

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Trade Organization negotiations is also essential for the development agenda.

But we also need more and better aid. More of our efforts should be focused on the poorest countries, and donors should be far better at coordinating, harmonizing and aligning their assistance with the recipient countries.

We appreciate the commitments of the Group of Eight to double their aid to Africa by 2010, and urge all donor partners to make faster progress towards increasing their official development assistance (ODA) with a view to achieving the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income. Norway has already made a commitment to increase Norwegian ODA to 1 per cent of our gross national income, which also means greater resources for Africa.

Improving the quality and effectiveness of aid should be an urgent concern for all partners. Norway is fully committed to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, and we are in the process of reviewing our procedures to ensure that we can deliver on those commitments.

Norway is also committed to becoming a more predictable donor by introducing a system of multi-year allocations to key partner countries and key United Nations organizations, by being more transparent about financing scenarios and about which indicators may trigger reduced or increased allocation to our partner countries and by being a partner in joint assistance strategies, whereby financing scenarios are presented jointly with other donors, wherever possible.

Norway is committed to aligning our support to partner countries' poverty-reduction strategies, policies and systems by providing aid to the governmental sector through the treasury; providing an increasing part of the support to key partner countries as general budget support and sector-wide programme support, jointly with other donors; using partner countries' systems for public finance management, reporting and procurement, wherever those systems have an acceptable standard; and supporting capacity development on an untied basis, together with other donors.

Norway will contribute to increased aid efficiency by concentrating its cooperation on two or three sectors by country and will work for complementarity among donors. It will pull out of overcrowded sectors at our partner countries' request. We will accept the status of silent partner and delegate the follow-up responsibility to another donor when donor numbers by sector are high. We will replace our own country strategy and memorandum of understanding processes with participation in joint processes, as in Uganda, Zambia and Tanzania.

Only African countries themselves can ensure sustainable growth and development on the African continent. Even if we as donors, and the international community as a whole, try to do all the right things in trade, debt relief, aid and aid reform, we will still fail in reducing poverty and promoting growth if the African countries themselves do not also play their part, especially in terms of fighting corruption and promoting good governance.

Without accountability, development performance will not improve, and without performance, international commitments and increased aid cannot be sustained. For that reason, we are very pleased that most African countries today are seriously trying to address those issues and are working jointly towards reform in governance, not least within the framework of NEPAD and its African Peer Review Mechanism.

Norway has, over the years, supported programmes for increasing the capacity of the African Union (AU) to deal with peace and security, and we will continue to do so. We believe that the new role played by AU for security and conflict management, through its Peace and Security Council and the African Peace Facility, has been a major contributing factor to reducing the level of armed conflict on the continent.

The AU itself has also taken on important and difficult peacekeeping operations, in Burundi and, more recently, in the Darfur region of the Sudan, which are combined with active diplomacy for peacemaking. We commend those efforts and strongly support international endeavours to assist the AU with whatever assistance, financial or logistical, may be required in that respect.

We also urge the parties to such conflicts, particularly in Darfur, to work constructively with the mediators to resolve the outstanding issues so as to bring peace and stability to the people of that region where there is so much suffering. At the same time, we strongly deplore and condemn the recent kidnappings and killings in Darfur of personnel of the African Union Mission in Sudan, which seriously threatens

both the peace efforts and international assistance to the region.

We believe that the African Union, in close cooperation with NEPAD and the existing subregional organizations, can play an increasingly important role in enhancing economic cooperation and integration throughout the African continent. That would represent an important impetus for Africa's development and for the realization of the Millennium Development Goals.

Nana Effah-Apenteng (Ghana): My delegation warmly welcomes the reports by the Secretary-General on which we are holding this joint debate on progress in the implementation of and international support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace in Africa. They give us a panoramic view of developments over the past year in the contradictory spheres of development and conflict on the African continent. The two issues are interlinked, particularly in the African context, because no purposeful development programmes can be pursued in an environment of violent conflict and insecurity.

The untold suffering caused to vulnerable segments of African society, namely, women, children and the aged, as the result of violent conflicts and the attendant desolation of vast expanses of fertile, arable land continues to make headlines in the international media and provoke our horror and dismay. It sets back the clock of progress in the areas directly affected and undermines the collective effort to eradicate poverty and hunger from the African continent. Against this dismal backdrop, the urgency of consolidating the requisite conditions for durable peace and development throughout Africa cannot be overemphasized.

This debate comes soon after the conclusion of the 2005 summit, at which the international community made far-reaching and unambiguous commitments in various domains to help meet the special needs of Africa. As stated in the Secretary-General's report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, the two major threats to durable peace and sustainable development in Africa are, first, economic and social threats, including poverty, infectious diseases and environmental degradation, and, secondly, internal conflict, including civil war, genocide and other large-scale atrocities.

Concerning the second threat, we wish to register our deep appreciation for the strengthening of the capacity of the African Union (AU) to intervene in conflicts on the continent through the establishment of the African Peace Facility, with funding by the European Union to support AU peace operations and capacity-building. The enhanced capacity of the AU should, in our view, be complemented by a willingness on the part of belligerent parties to use dialogue to ensure successful mediation and peaceful resolution of conflicts by the AU Peace and Security Council.

We also wish to acknowledge the direct bilateral technical assistance and financial support provided by the Group of Eight (G-8) countries, not only to the AU, but to other subregional organizations, such as the Economic Community of West African States, to bolster their efforts at conflict prevention and crisis management. With the AU Peace and Security Council firmly in place, we call for practical measures to fully operationalize the African peace and security architecture, to enable the African Union to pursue a more interventionist policy of conflict management in Africa than in the past, with the support of the United Nations system. In this connection, it is pertinent to mention the unambiguous commitments made by the international community in the 2005 summit outcome document to assist Africa in peacekeeping and the call for the speedy implementation of practical measures to achieve the desired ends.

The elimination of economic and social threats, including poverty, infectious diseases and environmental degradation, is a fundamental objective of the New Partnership for Africa's Development. The achievement of this objective, as acknowledged in the Secretary-General's report, is a complex and painstaking process, requiring sustained coordination at national and subregional levels to ensure the effective implementation of the key priority areas of NEPAD. The challenges posed by the initiative in this domain are formidable and will be addressed later. For now, we wish to acknowledge the progress made in the various sectors discussed in the report.

It is quite clear from the report that a lack of technical capacity is one of the major impediments to building and maintaining infrastructure in Africa. In this regard, we welcome the efforts by the NEPAD Secretariat to expedite action on priority projects, such as capacity-building for NEPAD implementing agencies, including subregional

economic communities, institutional coordination, mobilization of resources, information sharing and monitoring.

To aid these efforts, we call for the speedy implementation of the commitment by the international community in the 2005 summit outcome document to support the building of an international infrastructure consortium involving the African Union, the World Bank and the African Development Bank, with NEPAD as the main framework, to facilitate public and private infrastructure investment in Africa.

The health sector is one of the most daunting priority areas of NEPAD and we therefore note with satisfaction the successful efforts of the NEPAD Secretariat and other parties in advocating policies, plans and projects within the African Union/NEPAD Health Strategy, which has led various countries to use that strategy in advancing their health plans. We also appreciate the concerted efforts that are being made to deal with the problem of malaria in Africa. Yet, Africa is not out of the woods, since malaria is still considered the major killer of children under the age of five. We also commend the mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS projects into the work of NEPAD programmes and welcome the news that the provision of antiretroviral treatment on the continent is expanding.

We are, however, dismayed by the precarious state of health services throughout the African continent, caused by the massive exodus of trained health workers to seek better opportunities in industrialized countries. The migration of skilled professionals poses special challenges to African countries, especially as they have, in general, limited human resources. We share the view that, without a functional health system, most of the elements of disease-based programmes cannot be effectively delivered. We call for an imaginative solution to the problem that takes into account the broader economic and political factors that influence many of the health problems in Africa. In this regard, we endorse the recommendation by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) that a third of the proposed increased development aid be allocated to health.

We are pleased to note that the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), which aims at improving agricultural productivity and reducing hunger throughout the continent, registered some of the most significant developments in the priority areas of NEPAD during the year under review. In this regard, we wish to recall the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa, adopted in July 2003, and to exhort all African countries to work towards the goal of allocating 10 per cent of their national budgetary resources to agriculture within five years, as agreed.

We warmly welcome the financial support of $47 million given to CAAPD by the United States and the other initiatives of support by the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom and the International Fund for Agricultural Development for the CAAPD agenda.

It is a source of deep satisfaction to us that the peer review panel has completed country reviews for Ghana and Rwanda and presented the reports to the African Peer Review Mechanism in Abuja for discussion. We acknowledge the complexities of the peer review process, particularly since this is the first time such a review is being embarked upon in Africa. In this regard, it would be useful for the peer review panel to collate the experiences of the pioneering countries into guidelines to clarify the procedures of the new peer review for the benefit of other countries that have yet to undertake or complete the process. As noted earlier, there are serious challenges clearly identified in the Secretary-General's report that need to be addressed in order to enhance purposeful actions by African countries and organizations.

The first is the dearth of capacity in the national and subregional institutions that have the task of implementing NEPAD. This, in our view, calls for urgent and targeted measures to equip the institutions concerned with the requisite technical expertise and financial resources to enable successful implementation of NEPAD programmes and projects.

A second challenge is how to achieve greater coherence and coordination between national development plans and NEPAD. This task is not easy and is closely linked to the issue of capacity-building. It will require building a consensus implementation committee on a well focused list of NEPAD priorities and their national linkages through NEPAD focal points within governmental structures.

The third major difficulty is the promotion of a greater involvement of the private sector in the implementation of NEPAD programmes and projects.

To surmount this hurdle, the institutions involved in the implementation of these programmes and projects should undertake highly targeted marketing campaigns at various levels, on the basis of clear guidelines, aimed at attracting private sector participation.

We welcome the unequivocal commitment made by the international community in the 2005 outcome document to provide coherent support for NEPAD programmes, particularly by facilitating approval of such programmes by the multilateral financial institutions.

As articulated by NEPAD, the channels for external resource flows to African countries are official development assistance (ODA), debt relief, trade and foreign investment.

On development assistance, there appears to be a new determination to increase the volume of aid and to improve its quality. However, we wish to reaffirm the point made in the report of the Secretary-General that, notwithstanding the increase in ODA to Africa, the changing composition of aid flows means that there are fewer resources to support the goals of NEPAD and the Millennium Development Goals. That is due in part to the fact that since 2001 the share of aid resources devoted to technical cooperation, emergency aid and debt forgiveness has risen, leading to a reduction of budgetary support for development. In order to reverse that trend and ensure that new pledges of increased aid levels impact positively on development in Africa, we endorse the call for aid resources to be channelled to the key programmes and sectors of NEPAD in a sustained, effective and timely manner.

Debt relief needs to be a major area of cooperation between African countries and their development partners. We therefore welcome the commitment by the international community to promote a comprehensive and durable solution to the problem. In that regard, we are encouraged by the World Bank Development Committee's endorsement, in Washington on 25 September, of the Group of Eight proposal to cancel 100 per cent of multilateral debt owed by 18 eligible heavily indebted poor countries, 14 of which are African countries. We urge debt relief to be broadened to cover both multilateral and bilateral debt for all low-income African countries and urge substantial debt relief for middle-income countries as well.

As equitable trade is the key to long-term growth and development in Africa, it is lamentable to note that this is the sector that has shown the least progress in the year under review. Over the last 25 years, Africa's share of world exports has been declining, from approximately 6 per cent in 1980 to approximately 2 per cent in 2004, for the continent as a whole. Sub-Saharan Africa's share of world exports is estimated at 1.5 per cent.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial meeting in Hong Kong in December should provide an opportunity for all WTO members, especially industrialized countries, to demonstrate the sincerity of the commitment they declared at the 2005 World Summit outcome document (*resolution 60/1*) to work expeditiously towards implementing the development dimension of the Doha work programme. With specific reference to Africa, we wish to stress the importance of the recommendation contained in the report of the Secretary-General (*A/60/178*) for the promotion and expansion of initiatives such as the "aid for trade" agenda to help Africa's efforts to diversify its productive base and move away from commodities towards semi-manufactured and processed goods.

As stated in the report, foreign direct investment flows to Africa are meagre and lopsided, with the greater portion going to investment in natural resource exploitation, driven by a strong global demand. This situation favours those countries richly endowed with natural resources such as oil, gold and diamonds.

We share the expectation that successful efforts in capacity-building and investment in essential infrastructure — roads, electricity and telecommunications — will boost the flow of foreign direct investment to African countries, especially in export-oriented manufacturing. In that connection, we look forward with interest to the launching in October this year of the Investment Climate Facility for Africa, which seeks to identify and overcome the obstacles hindering a business-friendly investment climate in Africa.

Through its funds and programmes, the United Nations system has been a bulwark in the advocacy for, and delivery of, international support to Africa. We commend the institutional support increasingly provided by the United Nations system to African countries, the African Union, subregional organizations and NEPAD, and we call on the funds, programmes

and agencies of the United Nations to further improve their coordination of support for a more effective performance. We also endorse the call for the establishment of a mechanism for regular and comprehensive consultations between the United Nations system and the African Union to ensure a smooth interface between the two organizations.

In conclusion, let me reaffirm the importance we attach to establishing mutual accountability as we await the pledged increases in aid to Africa. We share the view that accountability is imperative to generating mutual trust and ensuring improved development performance and sustained aid increases. In that connection, we look forward to the early implementation of the decision to use the African Partnership Forum as an arena for identifying strategic issues to galvanize the implementation of NEPAD priorities, including the monitoring of commitments made to support those priorities.

Mr. Mahiga (United Republic of Tanzania): I thank the Secretary-General for the third consolidated report on progress in implementation and international support on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), contained in document A/60/178. We also wish to express our appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Ibrahim Gambari for his work in his previous capacity as Special Adviser on Africa, as well as his work on the implementation of NEPAD by the United Nations system.

Tanzania associates itself with the statements made by Namibia on behalf of the African Group, Lesotho on behalf of the Southern African Development Community, and Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Since its creation four years ago, NEPAD has continued to engage itself in priority programmes for realizing its objectives. Its broad objective is promoting subregional and continental integration, the utilization of economies of scale, poverty eradication, the realization of entrepreneurial potential and the free movement of goods, services and factors of production on the continent.

At the continental level, we welcome the initiatives by the NEPAD secretariat, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, in formulating implementation strategies, in particular in the areas of improving Africa's competitiveness in international trade by collectively negotiating for better market access, increasing the quantity, quality and effectiveness of official development assistance, pushing for debt cancellation and enhancing aid delivery and the coherence and coordination of development assistance. In addition, an effort has been made to improve food production, agricultural research, the dissemination of technology and the development of physical and social infrastructure, as well as to spearhead interventions on HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other communicable diseases.

Recognizing the interlinkages between peace, security and development, the NEPAD secretariat, in collaboration with the African Union (AU), has prepared a joint AU-NEPAD peace and security agenda, outlining peace and security priorities, with a focus on targeting conflict prevention and resolution, including the strengthening of peacekeeping operations. The African Union (AU) and subregional organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development have undertaken significant initiatives with respect to the conflicts in various countries on the continent. The next step is to move beyond peacekeeping and ensure durable peace and development under the NEPAD framework.

It is in that regard that we welcome the early establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission, in accordance with the 2005 High-level Plenary Meeting decision, because the Commission would address the special needs of countries emerging from conflict and moving towards recovery and reconstruction and would assist them in laying the foundations for sustainable development and preventing a relapse into conflict. Africa needs the Commission up and running as soon as possible to permit NEPAD programmes to be implemented as part of post-conflict strategies.

Tanzania is pleased to be part of the 23 member States of the African Union to have joined the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). Early this year, Tanzania ratified the APRM, and its secretariat has already been invited to start the review process in Tanzania.

The Government of Tanzania has put in place some important structures in line with APRM guidelines, including the implementation of legal sector reform programmes and the strengthening of the judicial system. Other initiatives strengthen mechanisms to fight corruption and establish the

Human Rights and Good Governance Commission, the Prevention of Corruption Bureau, the Ethics Secretariat and the Good Governance Coordination Unit in the President's Office.

Important as the issues of democracy and good governance are to Africa's development, NEPAD should make equally significant progress in implementing tangible economic and social programmes that are already on its agenda. The challenges and constraints outlined in the Secretary-General's report must be overcome. All partners and stakeholders must live up to their commitments. The momentum and the euphoria that NEPAD has generated must not be allowed to wane. Implementation of both the NEPAD objectives and the Millennium Project recommendations should coincide in order to realize the Millennium Development Goals in Africa and enable Africa to sustain its development beyond 2015.

Tanzania has prepared priority programmes to promote and support NEPAD through private sector involvement, bilateral and multilateral support and regional cooperation. Some of those include the Ruvuma River Unity Bridge, at the border between Mozambique and Tanzania; the Mtwara corridor project in the southern part of Tanzania, which has economic integrating potential for both Mozambique and Malawi; the Zambia-Tanzania-Kenya power interconnection programme and East African Community road development programmes.

Some of the programmes have also been submitted to the secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) for consolidation into regional ones. By virtue of its geographic location, Tanzania has an obligation to provide transit facilities to neighbouring landlocked countries in the SADC region and in the Great Lakes region of Central Africa. Assistance to Tanzania and NEPAD should therefore factor in Tanzania's historical role in that regard. It is my Government's expectation that, once approved at the regional level, those projects will duly attract international attention and support.

Mr. Cabral (Guinea-Bissau), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Finally, Tanzania welcomes a number of positive initiatives that have been made this year to address the needs of Africa. We note with appreciation the focus placed on the special needs of Africa and NEPAD at the Commission for Africa and the G-8, as well as by the 2005 outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting (*resolution 60/1*). We also appreciate the expressed interest and commitment to support NEPAD by the European Union, the Bretton Woods institutions, the Nordic States, The Commonwealth and the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) process, as well as the entire United Nations system.

South-South cooperation in the entire spectrum of development has proved to be a most valuable partnership in implementing NEPAD programmes. We appreciate and encourage greater South-South cooperation.

NEPAD has been heralded as a showcase of Africa's ownership of its development process. But the context has to remain international, as Africa is inextricably linked to the process of globalization, with all its benefits and challenges. The partnership has to be a mutually reinforcing undertaking by all of Africa's partners and friends, as expressed by the statements made by various representatives today.

Mr. Gaspar Martins (Angola): My delegation aligns itself with the statement made earlier by the representative of Jamaica, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, the representative of Namibia, on behalf of the African Group, and the representative of the Kingdom of Lesotho, on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Allow me to express through you, Mr. Vice-President, my Government's profound gratitude to the Secretary-General for his third consolidated report on progress in implementation and international support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (*A/60/178*). That report, along with others, provides useful insight into the progress made and the measures needed to address the special needs of Africa.

Four years have elapsed since the document that outlined NEPAD's vision, principles and priorities was adopted by the Assembly of African Heads of State and Government. What followed was the preparation and approval of policy frameworks and strategic plans in the following priority areas: the capacity of the African Union to support peace operations; standards and guidelines for the African Peer Review Mechanism, which is NEPAD's instrument for promoting good governance; NEPAD's health strategy; the Education Action Plan now under review; the Comprehensive

Africa Agriculture Development Programme; the Short-Term Action Plan for Infrastructure Development; the Science and Technology Strategic Plan; the Environment Action Plan; the Tourism Action Plan and the African Productive Capacity Action Plan.

These frameworks and plans reaffirm the principles of African ownership and responsibility for the continent's development; the promotion and advancement of democracy, human rights, good governance and accountable leadership; self-reliant development to reduce dependency on aid; the building of capacity in African institutions; the speeding up of regional economic integration; promoting the advancement of women; strengthening Africa's voice in international forums; and the forging of partnerships with African civil society and the private sector.

My Government shares the Secretary-General's assessment that in the past year "there have been important regional actions and greater international response in support of Africa's development." (*A/60/178, summary*) We note with satisfaction the engagement of national, subregional and regional efforts, including those of our partners and relevant stakeholders, in the implementation of projects encompassing the full range of priority areas identified by NEPAD. In some instances that engagement has taken the form of facilitating the implementation of, and seeking support for, agreed actions with regard to building the capacity of regional economic communities and national implementing authorities. In other instances that engagement has taken the form of the African Development Bank's financing of facilities.

United Nations agencies and organizations remain important partners in advocating for, and the delivery of, international support for Africa. The Assembly's adoption of resolution 57/7 gave special momentum to that process. In that regard, it is imperative to continue to take measures to strengthen the Office of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Africa, including through adequate staffing for that Office, in order to enable it to effectively fulfil its mandate. In addition, we encourage United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to strengthen coordination, cohesion and programming mechanisms as a means of enhancing support for African countries.

Analysing the progress made in the implementation of NEPAD is in many ways a test of the international community's commitment to address the development and special needs of Africa. Its success depends largely upon changes in the donor-recipient relationship, in particular as it relates to improving the role and impact of aid. The Secretary-General's report provides us with information on actions taken thus far, but also clearly recognizes that much more still remains to be done. Allow me to outline a few of those areas.

During the last year we were afforded an opportunity to welcome initiatives and commitments to significantly increase aid flows to Africa, including in particular the very positive and encouraging decision of the European Union to establish a timetable to reach the target of 0.7 per cent in official development assistance (ODA). We hope that other developed countries will follow suit.

However, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), increases in the levels of ODA have not necessarily meant equivalent increases in aid to Africa. Furthermore, an increasing percentage of aid to Africa is being allocated to non-development activities such as emergency relief and debt forgiveness. While those are important and necessary objectives, they should not undermine, or compete with, the support needed for the implementation of development projects and programmes envisaged under NEPAD.

In addition, increases in ODA must be accompanied by actions aimed at scaling up aid effectiveness. NEPAD was conceived to enable ownership, align support, harmonize efforts and ensure mutual accountability. It therefore represents a singular opportunity to make progress in these areas. In that regard, we welcome the signing of a common policy framework between the Tokyo International Conference on African Development and NEPAD and the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership. Furthermore, we encourage continued efforts with a view to the early approval of a common policy framework between the Group of Eight and NEPAD.

Debt relief represents another opportunity for meaningful and immediate assistance in support of Africa's development. Debt relief can play a key role in liberating resources that can be directed towards activities consistent with NEPAD. We welcome the recent proposals of the Group of Eight, and the subsequent approval by the boards of the International

Monetary Fund and the World Bank, to cancel 100 per cent of the outstanding debt of eligible heavily indebted poor countries owed to the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank's International Development Association and the African Development Fund, as well as to provide additional resources to ensure that the financing capacity of the international financial institutions is not reduced.

However, we note with concern that many African nations continue to struggle to find a durable solution to their debt problems. The proposed debt relief should therefore be broadened to cover all low-income and middle-income African countries, where debt relief can free up resources for the implementation of projects consistent with NEPAD that ultimately contribute towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and the implementation of national development strategies and programmes.

My delegation remains concerned about the levels of foreign direct investment in Africa. Although such investment has recently increased, returning to 2001 levels, it represents only 3 per cent of global foreign investment flows. Moreover, foreign direct investment tends to flow towards mineral-extraction industries, which traditionally generate limited employment and increase a country's dependency on natural resources. We are convinced that actions and support in capacity-building and infrastructure development can increase private investment flows into Africa. In that regard, we look forward to the launching of an investment climate facility. We call upon Member States to support it fully, as it is intended to identify and overcome obstacles to the creation and improvement of a business-friendly investment climate in Africa. That will enhance Africa's attractiveness to foreign direct investment.

Angola has adopted its Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, aimed at improving the macroeconomic framework and structural and social policies in order to foster growth and reduce poverty. Angola stands ready to continue its participation in regional and subregional programmes that will enhance the capacity of African countries to respond to African challenges and foster peace, stability and economic growth in the continent.

The Government of Angola is encouraged by the progress made in the resolution and prevention of conflicts in Africa. In the past seven years there has been a significant reduction of conflicts in Africa. Promoting peace in Africa requires an integrated and coordinated approach to address the nexus between peace, security, humanitarian aspects, development and post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding. Africa's capacity to harness opportunities for the establishment of durable peace by deploying and undertaking effective peacekeeping operations must be supported. In that regard, we call upon the international community, including the United Nations, to scale up support to the African Union towards that end, as well as with regard to the establishment of an early warning system.

Post-conflict reconstruction is understood as a complex system that provides for simultaneous short-, medium- and long-term programmes to prevent disputes from escalating and to avoid a relapse into violent confrontation. Post-conflict reconstruction is ultimately aimed at addressing the root causes of conflict and lays the foundations for social justice and sustainable peace. The continent is currently preparing an African post-conflict reconstruction policy framework that integrates the areas of security, political transition, governance, participation, socio-economic development, human rights, justice, reconciliation, coordination, management and resource mobilization to provide a common framework for post-conflict situations, given their multidisciplinary, multifunctional and multidimensional nature. It is essential that the international community support, and participate in, that undertaking. In that regard, we welcome the decision to establish a Peacebuilding Commission. We look forward to its early operationalization to tackle the root causes of conflict in Africa.

Before concluding, allow me to welcome the establishment of new initiatives to control malaria. Such initiatives as the World Bank Booster Project, the United States Government's new international malaria initiative and the Malaria Control and Evaluation Partnership in Africa hold the promise for increased funding to tackle a preventable disease. While so-called quick wins can help to control the disease, greater emphasis must be placed on strengthening health systems and developing human resources, which are ultimately responsible for programme planning and implementation. We wish to take this opportunity to thank Governments, in particular that of the United States, as well as the World Health Organization, for their important contribution to that end in Angola.

I wish to conclude by quoting the Secretary-General's report on NEPAD: "This is a moment of opportunity for making progress in Africa's development[,] for which NEPAD is the main policy framework" (*Ibid., para. 59*).

Ms. Rispal (France) (*spoke in French*): Last year at the General Assembly, we expressed the hope that 2005 would be the year of development, and thus the year of Africa. I believe that today we can say we were successful. The challenges are of course great, but we can be proud of what has been achieved in recent months. When I say "we", that of course means, above all, African countries themselves. The conclusions of the July 2005 Sirte summit of the African Union bolstered the efforts made in recent years, but Africa's partners and the United Nations system have also done their part. France generally shares the analysis and recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General (*A/60/178*).

This morning, the representative of the United Kingdom, whose country currently holds the presidency of the European Union, underscored the very considerable resources that Europeans have pledged to devote to support African countries. That exceptional mobilization illustrates, were there a need to do so, how, more than ever before, Africa is at the very centre of European development policy.

France's efforts are of course in keeping with that. France has endorsed NEPAD's priorities and has, as a result, reassessed its official assistance. This morning we distributed in the Hall a publication outlining the main points of that effort.

At Gleneagles, the Group of Eight (G-8) also continued to provide its resolute contribution vis-à-vis Africa, as it has done for several years. I wish also to mention the renewed commitment of the World Bank, whose Development Committee has just endorsed the G-8 Africa Action Plan.

As part of its international efforts, the Africa Partnership Forum — which brings together all interested players — provides an indispensable venue for dialogue and joint action.

Lastly, the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly, recently held in New York, has enshrined that international mobilization. All of us here are aware of the highlights of the outcome document (resolution 60/1). They relate to momentum for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), support for Africa and its priorities and financing for development, and also include decisions taken for peace and security, such as the support plan for the African Union, the fight against trafficking in small arms and light weapons and the Peacebuilding Commission.

No one is better placed than the President of the General Assembly to know that the time has now come for implementation in all forums and in all areas. In this respect, let me highlight four specific points. First, in the area of peace and security, African institutions are steadily growing stronger, and France is actively contributing to this. It is currently modernizing its own arrangements to adapt them to new African realities. France strongly supports the growing commitment of the European Union in this area. We still need to improve the predictability and the coordination of international support. Last year during the discussion of this matter, France proposed that the international community establish a mechanism to support countries emerging from conflict. A decision has now been taken: we need to establish the Peacebuilding Commission in the weeks to come.

Secondly, everything needs to be done to enable all African countries to move towards sustainable development. The work in this area is vast and important. We support it in all the forums I have mentioned. Let me highlight here two specific priorities. First of all, I would mention the fight against AIDS. We absolutely need to achieve the goal of universal access to treatment by 2010. France hopes that the special session of the General Assembly to be held in June 2006 will adopt a specific road map tailored to each country.

The protection of natural resources is another priority. The degradation of the environment has clearly become one of the major obstacles to development. This change, which is clearly seen in Africa, calls for an appropriate response from the United Nations. This is why France, along with others, believes that the time has come to think about a United Nations organization for the environment, based on the United Nations Environment Programme, which would be the lead specialized institution, with its headquarters in Africa, in Nairobi.

The third point relates to financing for development. Progress in this area has been spectacular and has demonstrated the viability of the Monterrey

partnership, which in addition draws greatly upon the principles of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). France welcomes in particular the commitments taken recently with respect to official development assistance (ODA) and debt cancellation. We need to deepen our thinking on debt sustainability and on taking into account the outside shocks that are too frequent in Africa.

Let us make two additional comments. We know that to achieve the Millennium Goals we will need new, more stable and predictable resources. The work on innovative sources, of which the summit took note, is entering a concrete phase with the implementation by a number of countries of an International Finance Facility pilot project and a levy on aeroplane tickets. France is taking part in these two initiatives. A ministerial conference will be held in Paris in February to move forward on the modalities for implementation.

Trade clearly plays a key role. We need to do everything to ensure that development continues to be the aim of the Doha round and that all developing countries, including African countries, truly benefit from its outcome. The European Union has made ambitious proposals to that end. France is pleased that negotiations are truly under way.

My final point has to do with the United Nations. We are convinced that the United Nations agencies have a fundamental role to play in development on the ground and in terms of the global debate. The summit clearly confirmed this. The agencies, however, need to continue to adapt to meet the new development challenges, first of all in Africa, where the MDGs are a special challenge. The United Nations Development Group needs to continue its efforts towards establishing consistent United Nations strategies for each country.

The task is vast, but the movement is under way. We need to continue to be mobilized and remain resolved, so that the commitments taken become a reality and expectations are not dashed. We know that the President of the General Assembly is personally committed to this.

Mr. Bennouna (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): The Moroccan delegation welcomes this discussion on the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and we wish, accordingly, to associate ourselves with all of those who have spoken earlier and to reaffirm our commitment to NEPAD. This must be stated time and again.

We thank the Secretary-General for his report (*A/60/178*), which once again gives us a clear account of the endeavours of the African countries primarily concerned to execute the priorities and objectives of NEPAD and also of the support given to them by the international community. The Moroccan delegation associates itself with the statement made by the delegation of Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and with the statement made by the representative of Namibia on behalf of the African Group.

As noted by the Secretary-General in his report, Africa has benefited from an unprecedented mobilization of international public opinion. The issuance of the report of the Secretary-General's Advisory Panel on International Support for NEPAD (*A/60/85*), Jeffrey Sachs's Millennium Project report (*A/59/727*) and the report of the United Kingdom's Commission for Africa, and the launching of a number of private initiatives, have greatly contributed to framing the problem and drawing attention to Africa's needs in the area of development.

For our part, since 2003, when we chaired the Group of 77, we had stressed the need to convene a summit to assess the state of implementation of the Millennium Goals and to place the interests of Africa at the centre of the discussion. Happily, the recent summit yielded specific and positive decisions to assist the African continent. It was decided to increase official development assistance (ODA) to Africa by $25 billion per year by 2010 and to provide all the necessary support to the implementation of NEPAD. At the same time, the commitment of most of the developed countries to set a timetable for attaining the objective of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for ODA will, we hope, secure a degree of continuity in the availability of financial support to our African brothers. An increase in assistance would go hand in hand with an international effort to enhance aid effectiveness. In this regard, we support the implementation of the Paris Declaration and the Marrakesh Declaration in order to enhance aid effectiveness for the benefit of the populations concerned. However, I should like to note that a large part of such assistance is, unfortunately, still granted in the form of debt relief and does not really represent new resources for financing implementation of the

MDGs. At the same time, innovative sources of financing, as has been stated, will provide additional resources and will help to support efforts aimed at achieving the MDGs in Africa.

We welcome the launching of the International Finance Facility for immunization as well as the planned levies on airline tickets, which Morocco has officially endorsed in full. It is our hope that other countries will be able to join in these efforts. There is no doubt that the success of these initiatives will have an impact on the lives of millions of people living in poverty and despair.

Moreover, the commitment of our developed partners to resolve the problems of indebtedness of African countries is another example of solidarity with our African brethren that we welcome. The approval by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund of the Group of Eight (G-8) proposal to cancel 100 per cent of the multilateral debt of highly indebted poor countries is a significant decision, in line with the course mapped out by the Monterrey Consensus and the recent world summit in New York. We welcome that decision and encourage the international community, and the donor community in particular, to strive to find solutions to the problems of indebtedness of all low- and middle-income African countries, which could, we hope, benefit from a substantial reduction in their debt.

The endorsement of the G-8 Africa Action Plan by the World Bank Group has also focused the international community's attention more strongly on the efforts and difficulties of African countries in the struggle against poverty. That, we hope, will lead to an increase in financial support and investments capable of speeding up the attainment of the MDGs within the established time frame. We call on the World Bank to implement the Action Plan as soon as possible.

For reasons associated with both geography and history, over the centuries Morocco has had relationships based on economic and cultural exchanges with all its sub-Saharan brothers. In recent years we have launched a number of initiatives based on NEPAD priority areas to establish — together with the private sector — genuine South-South partnerships that stress sustainable development in such priority sectors as agriculture, education, health, the training of managers and the exchange of experience and expertise in various fields.

Since we believe that human capital is the essential underpinning of any strategy of sustainable socio-economic development, the Kingdom of Morocco has made the training of African managerial personnel the cornerstone of its cooperation policy with all the countries of the continent. Thus, the training of African managers has been a key facet of the activities of the Moroccan international cooperation agency. Many managers have been trained through academic and technical courses at Moroccan universities and now carry out responsible functions in their own countries. For example, from 2002 to 2005 approximately 7,000 foreign students from 55 countries — 80 per cent of them from sub-Saharan Africa — enrolled in Moroccan public education establishments at the university, technical and professional level. More than 4,800 of those received scholarships or grants from our cooperation agency.

Technical cooperation is also an important focus of our policy of cooperation with our African brothers. As we have considerable expertise and know-how in the area of technical cooperation with the countries of sub-Saharan Africa, Morocco has assisted in the implementation of many programmes for the benefit of sub-Saharan African countries financed by various agencies, including the United Nations Development Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. We also collaborate with regional and international donors in tripartite cooperation programmes to assist countries of sub-Saharan Africa, as attested to by the five-year Morocco-Japan programme for francophone countries, which covers maritime fisheries, commercial shipping, road maintenance and drinking water, as well as a special programme on food security in Burkina Faso. Recently cross-sectoral activities have been carried out in all those areas.

Lastly, as regards trade, I would underscore Morocco's commitment to the least developed countries in Africa. We allow those countries duty-free access to our markets, which has led to a considerable increase in exports from those countries to Morocco. We would encourage other developing countries to do the same so as to assist the poorest countries to escape from the trap in which they find themselves.

Faithful to the principle of solidarity, which has always inspired our policies, and in favour of genuine cooperation through concrete projects, my country is doing its utmost, within its means, to respond to the

requests of fraternal countries for expertise and technical assistance. Morocco will also pursue its efforts to facilitate the expansion of economic and trade relations with its African partners. We remain committed to promoting South-South cooperation and attaining the objectives and priorities of NEPAD through targeted economic and social projects that have a real impact on people's lives.

Mr. Baali (Algeria) (*spoke in French*): My delegation considers that the Secretary-General's two reports provide a good basis for our deliberations on the causes of conflict in Africa (*see A/60/182*) and for our annual review of progress in implementation of and international support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (*see A/60/178*). Those reports once again highlight the complexity of the multisectoral and interdependent challenges facing Africa. They identify two types of threats to sustainable peace and development in Africa that undermine all efforts to pull the continent out of its difficult situation: those of an economic nature — such as poverty, endemic disease, degradation of the environment; and those related to crises and conflicts with their accompanying atrocities, victims and displaced persons. Indeed, for our part we would add the lack of structuring in aid and in international support mechanisms, which are often only set up long after humanitarian tragedies have unfolded. The issues before us are similar in many ways. It is therefore appropriate to consider them together, for issues of peace and development are closely interlinked and should often be understood in a holistic way.

With respect to security, which continues to be the key element in the maintenance of peace and for long-term development, we support the recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. They underscore the absolutely crucial necessity of allocating additional resources — human and financial — to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of African Union (AU) peacekeeping operations in Darfur, Burundi and Somalia. In that connection, Algeria welcomes the establishment of the AU Peace and Security Council in 2004, which, with a responsible, coordinated approach, pools African conflict prevention and conflict settlement capacities. That body is now operational and African contingents are already active on the ground, particularly in Darfur. To achieve that, the AU has naturally drawn on the experience and expertise of the United Nations in the area of peacekeeping operations, closely cooperating with the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and of Political Affairs, as well as with the Security Council, as reflected in today's Council meeting on Côte d'Ivoire (*see S/PV. 5278*).

In a complementary approach, but one that is just as vital, the NEPAD Secretariat has been mandated by the African Union to work out a strategic framework for post-conflict reconstruction of countries affected by crisis or conflict. This responsibility, as underscored by the report, is in no way an easy task. The African Union needs, as a result, to be able to count on steady, multifaceted support from United Nations agencies, particularly the Peacebuilding Commission, which is to be established by the end of the year, and the ad hoc advisory groups. Similarly, the contribution from donor countries and other development partners, in terms of additional financial resources and appropriate technical assistance, is greatly desired, as it would be in line with a desire to have greater effectiveness in terms of needs, as previously identified by NEPAD.

With respect to aspects tied to development, my delegation supports overall what is stated in the Secretary-General's report, where he draws in particular on the analysis and conclusions of the Advisory Panel on International Support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and we believe that those conclusions are fully relevant.

The assessment made by that Advisory Panel highlights that, that since the second report of 2004 on the same subject and despite the considerable initiatives that have emerged since that time, such as the decision of the Group of Eight (G-8) countries in terms of debt relief and official development assistance (ODA) and the support graciously offered by other countries, Africa still has needs, because much remains to be done.

If we want NEPAD, which was established by African leaders four years ago and which is gradually becoming an important player and a vital framework for any action to strengthen or support efforts at peace, reconstruction or sustainable development for Africa and if we want NEPAD to avoid the fate of other attempts in the past, it is urgent and necessary to greatly increase the level of ODA, to attack the debt problem more resolutely and to encourage foreign

direct investment (FDI) in Africa in order to enable that continent to achieve robust, sustained growth and to be integrated into the global economy.

In terms of the implementation of programmes for Africa, a brief look at the structure of spending tells us that much of the expenditure is actually being absorbed by humanitarian needs, thereby leaving a greatly reduced margin for support for reconstruction efforts. There can be no lasting peace in societies that are either openly or latently affected by poverty, unemployment, famine or disease.

In the African context, nothing better illustrates the commitment of Africa to strengthen the stability and peace that are necessary to its development than the establishment within NEPAD of an African Peer Review Mechanism. This Mechanism submits African countries that have voluntarily signed up to it to a review on compliance with agreed standards in terms of governance and democracy. Through their commitment to this approach, African countries are demonstrating their commitment to establish the basis for an African society that is open to the world and perfectly integrated — that is, respectful of human rights and imbued with democratic values and good governance. It is this vision of a remodelled Africa that NEPAD is seeking to promote via a comprehensive strategy and ambitious and productive programmes.

The many reasons listed in the report of the Secretary-General on NEPAD to explain the lack of progress made in terms of development amount to essentially two types of factors, those that are internal, such as political instability, insecurity, the lack of basic physical infrastructure, small markets and the low rate of flows of trade among African countries themselves, and then there are the external reasons, such as ongoing discriminatory rules and obstacles to trade facing Africa, as well as the slow pace of disbursement of resources that are due or have been pledged to support efforts on the part of the international community, particularly with respect to the priorities defined by NEPAD.

On the whole, I share this analysis, but let me make two comments. With respect to the private sector, the report emphatically highlights the role of that sector as a motor for development, for creating jobs and for producing exports. From this standpoint, Algeria is one of those countries that believe that there is a need to place the private sector at the very centre of economic activities as a key driving force for growth and development. However, we do need to point out that, given that the private sector is essentially driven by the quest for profit, it would not be reasonable to fully replace ODA by private investment.

The other point where we have serious misgivings has to do with the assertion that a reduction in agricultural subsidies in the European Union countries and in the United States would be harmful to many African countries, which are net importers of agricultural products. This assertion does not seem to take into account the importance of agriculture in many African economies, most of which are export-driven and, therefore, suffer from these subsidies given by European countries and the United States to their agricultural sectors.

Our heads of State and Government, who met last September for the five-year review of the Millennium Development Goals, gave special attention to Africa and NEPAD in their consensus document. They laid out the framework and identified actions to be undertaken in order to assist in the development of Africa in general and to implement NEPAD programmes in particular, both by working to provide the ongoing coordinated support needed and by assisting African countries to mobilize considerable financial resources to ensure the development of the continent and the implementation of programmes. The United Nations system has a road map and clear objectives that it needs to achieve. To do this, it needs to improve the quality and effectiveness of its programmes and step up its efforts to complement the aid that it is providing to Africa with appropriate advocacy and financing activities.

Mr. Mantovani (Italy): Italy fully aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of the United Kingdom on behalf of the European Union and wholeheartedly supports the lines of action in support of Africa presented in that statement. As Italy's national contribution to today's debate, I wish to make a few additional remarks.

Let me first thank the Secretary-General, as well as the Special Adviser on Africa, for the latest reports on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the causes of conflict in Africa, which provide a most useful background to our debate and whose conclusions and recommendations we share.

This debate is the first opportunity for the General Assembly to assess the outcome of the United Nations summit from an African perspective and to follow up the commitment to address the special needs of Africa that were solemnly made by our heads of State and Government. The views expressed today, particularly those by African Member States, remind us of the need to pursue all efforts to advance the development agenda and provide useful input to our Organization, especially now, as the United Nations addresses the challenge of how to ensure the implementation of the outcome document in all its components.

This annual debate also provides a unique opportunity for the United Nations to assess the progress made in the implementation of NEPAD and the support provided by the international community.

Italy is glad to acknowledge that a large number of African countries continue to make substantial progress in both the development and the security areas, as highlighted in the Secretary-General's two reports. NEPAD policies continue to be implemented in the areas of infrastructure, information and communication technology, health, education, environment, tourism, agriculture and industry. Indices show sustained growth for a higher number of countries than in the recent past.

The African Peer Review Mechanism is now fully in place. The countries of the continent are increasingly aware of the importance of good governance and the rule of law. The number of major conflicts is decreasing. Democracy is flourishing, and free and fair elections are successfully taking place in many parts of the continent. Finally, the African Union and African subregional organizations have assumed a leadership role in their respective areas of competence, particularly in those of peace and security.

Africa's partners have also enhanced their support for NEPAD following a number of important steps taken by the United Nations, the European Union and the Group of Eight (G-8), as well as within the context of South-South cooperation. What the Secretary-General calls "unprecedented mobilization of international public opinion in support of Africa" (*A/60/178, summary*) has also played a major role, which we must continue to keep alive through appropriate communication strategies. However, we should be realistic. For Africa to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by the date that has been set, and in order to take advantage of the momentum generated by the recent summit, efforts must be redoubled, commitments must be honoured and implementation must be ensured.

Italy will continue to contribute substantially to those efforts, both bilaterally and multilaterally. Let me just mention some of the areas where my Government has focused its recent efforts.

We have cancelled $2.8 billion of debt owed by African countries. For 12 countries that means cancellation of their entire outstanding debt. The resources freed up in that way are used by beneficiary countries to finance national poverty-reduction and development plans. Italy also supports the swift implementation of the recent G-8 initiative to cancel all debt owed to multilateral financial institutions by African countries of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative.

Italy is the third largest donor to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, having thus far contributed $745 million, and actively promotes the Fund's financing of viable and effective projects in Africa.

Approximately 50 per cent of Italy's official development assistance is directed to Africa. A large share of those resources goes to agriculture and food security programmes, in coordination with United Nations agro-food agencies and in accordance with NEPAD priorities.

Integrated rural development is an important component of our efforts, that includes such major programmes in sub-Saharan Africa as the ones in Kenia, Niger, and in Arsi and Bale, Ethiopia, which are worth $75 million each. Programmes to combat desertification and protect the environment have recently been launched in Southern Africa, alongside our traditional support to West Africa through the Club du Sahel.

Italy shoulders approximately 5 per cent of the United Nations peacekeeping budget, most of which is devoted to Africa, and cooperates with our G-8 partners to enhance African peacekeeping capacities. Working jointly with the United States in Vicenza, Italy, we have established the Centre of Excellence for Stability Police Units, which will train specialized police units, particularly from African countries, for

participation in peace-support operations. Training classes will start next month and will include the participation of several officers coming from four African countries. Italy also supports the peacebuilding and good-governance activities for African civilian personnel that are jointly managed by the University of Pisa, Italy, and the University of Accra, Ghana, which involve trainees from 21 African countries.

Italy promotes the advancement of democracy in Africa through direct support, in cooperation with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), for the Parliaments of eight African countries. We have also helped to finance elections in four African countries in 2005, operated partnerships with three African countries in the area of e-government, and provided substantial resources to the DESA-led African governance inventory programme, involving 28 countries of the African continent.

Several initiatives have also been launched to promote Italian private investment flows to Africa, in the belief that access to global markets, trade, private investment and entrepreneurship are powerful engines that will drive African growth and development.

Last but not least, Italy contributes to the preservation of African artistic and cultural heritage. The most important example of that is the recent return to Ethiopia of the Axum obelisk.

Italy welcomes an active role for the United Nations in promoting and supporting NEPAD. Actually, that is yet one more reason to strengthen the United Nations system and make multilateralism truly effective, as was pledged by our leaders in the Hall just one month ago.

In conclusion, I wish to join other speakers in reaffirming the need for renewed African efforts and continued tangible international support. Italy looks forward to advancing, with all partners, the implementation phase of our commitments, in the spirit of the mutual accountability and enhanced partnership emerging within the Africa Partnership Forum.

Mr. Menon (Singapore): It has been four years since the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) was launched by African leaders. The results since then have been mixed. While there has been progress in many areas — as evidenced by the Secretary-General's third consolidated report on progress in implementation and international support for NEPAD (*A/60/178*) and by economic improvements across the continent — it is also a fact that Africa still faces many daunting challenges. Those include the lack of a well-integrated transportation infrastructure, massive debt, the lack of sufficient foreign direct investment flows and huge gaps in the health and education sectors, including the serious threat posed by HIV/AIDS. Those are massive, but not insurmountable, problems. The important thing is that through NEPAD African leaders have signalled that they are committed to resolving the continent's problems and taking responsibility for creating the right political conditions for development.

As Nigeria's President Obasanjo recently remarked, Africa is a continent on the move. As a result, there is now greater focus at the international level on Africa's development problems. NEPAD has become in many ways the key mechanism through which multilateral financial institutions and development partners are seeking to engage Africa. The report of the United Kingdom-led Commission for Africa entitled "Our common interest" and that of the United Nations Millennium Project (*A/59/727*) testify to that. Those reports have not only provided independent analysis and offered some remedies for Africa's problems; they have reinforced the good work being done by NEPAD.

In many ways, NEPAD drives home the message that developing countries have no choice but to adopt and implement their own national development strategies. That is also in line with Singapore's own thinking that there is no one-size-fits-all model of development and that it is important for Governments to take charge of their own national strategies, as they are the ones that should know what is in the best interests of their peoples. However, there is also no denying that there are some basic ingredients that must be part of any national development strategy. Unless we get those basics right, national strategies are unlikely to work or to have the kind of major, positive impact that we would like to see them have in terms of making improvements in the lives of our citizens.

Paul Wolfowitz, the President of the World Bank, alluded to those basic ingredients in his recent Annual Meetings address to the World Bank Group in Washington, D.C., when he said,

> "We know that sustained economic growth is essential for development and reducing

poverty. And we also know that many of the drivers are not measurable in numerical terms. Because they are harder to measure, harder to predict and often harder to influence, there is a tendency to discount these factors as 'soft'.

"That would be a mistake — because sustainable development depends as much on leadership and accountability, on civil society and women, on the private sector and on the rule of law, as it does on labour or capital."

Singapore's own development experience over the past 40 years corroborates Mr. Wolfowitz's analysis of the basic ingredients that are necessary for sustained economic growth. Our first goal in Singapore when we became independent, in 1965, was to shape the Government into an effective instrument of policy. That required strong, fair and just leaders who not only commanded the respect of the people but who had a sense of trusteeship: that they were only temporarily in charge of the destinies of their people and that their duty was not only to discharge that trust but also pass it on to equally trustworthy and competent hands.

Strong measures were put in place to eradicate corruption. At the same time, the political leadership was backed up by a neutral, efficient and honest civil service, with officers being recruited and promoted solely on merit. We also pursued an economic policy that was pragmatic and not dogmatic. While we rejected colonialism, we accepted our colonial heritage. We recognized that continuity with the past helped one's evolution into new growth sectors. We therefore encouraged European, American, Japanese and all other businesses to stay and expand their investments. We avoided the seductive trap of nationalization of commerce, industry, land and property.

Mr. Hachani (Tunisia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

We rejected the conventional wisdom and political correctness of the 1960s, and even the 1970s, of being anti-multinational-corporation. We did not accept the theology that multinational corporations would reduce countries to what economists have referred to as "dependencia". On the contrary, we assiduously courted foreign investment by multinational corporations irrespective of their nationality. The fact was that multinational corporations had the technology, know-how, techniques, expertise and markets. We decided it was a fast way of learning on the job to work for them and with them. Indeed, multinational corporations have been a powerful factor in Singapore's growth.

Another key pillar of our national development strategy is education. For a small country without any natural resources except its human resources there is no other option but for everyone to be literate and knowledgeable in order to receive knowledge and to participate and add value. That is the only way for any country, in particular a small country, to stay ahead of the global competition. That is also the underlying philosophy of the Singapore Cooperation Programme, which was started in 1993 to help provide training to other developing countries in areas where we have developed some expertise over the years.

Singapore discovered early on that there were few problems confronting us that others had not confronted. We therefore learned from others and did not re-invent the wheel unnecessarily, except to suit our own specific circumstances. For the same reason, we believe in sharing our development experience with others, including our African friends. We recognize that our experience might not be relevant to some, but we are prepared and happy to share it with whoever might find it useful.

Under the Singapore Cooperation Programme we have provided human resource training to more than 36,000 officials from 160 countries, including 3,700 officials from 47 African countries. Under the Japan-Singapore Partnership Programme for the Twenty-first Century and the Singapore Commonwealth of Learning Joint Training Programme we have tailored our courses to meet the needs of our African friends, for example, by offering a course on human resources management in the civil service. We are prepared to tailor more courses, and we welcome continued African participation in the courses of the Singapore Cooperation Programme.

Apart from training courses, Singapore has also hosted a number of African study visits and has sponsored consultancy projects in response to the specific requests received from individual African countries. For example, just last month, 13 of South Africa's heads of mission in Asian countries visited Singapore to learn about Singapore's experience in the promotion of international trade. Those are some of the small things that we have done, and will continue to

do, in the area of human resources training to help contribute, within our limited resources, to African development.

The great African historian Joseph Ki-Zerbo used to say that it is impossible to develop other people. You can only develop by yourself, be the author of your own development. NEPAD aims to do just that. But, I would like to add to that by saying that a bit of help from the outside world is always helpful, especially when you are starting out, as is the case with NEPAD, which is only four years old. As much as NEPAD is a regional initiative, the fact remains that Africa, and for that matter most of us, cannot do it alone, even under the best of circumstances.

When Singapore became independent, in 1965, and despite being a free port and having fairly extensive connections with the rest of the world, we turned to the United Nations, and in particular the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to provide us with technical assistance and economic advice. The same should be done by countries in Africa and elsewhere that are stuck in the poverty trap. As Professor Jeffrey Sachs noted in a *Time* magazine essay dated 14 March 2005,

> "perhaps most pertinent today, many regions that got left furthest behind have faced special obstacles and hardships: diseases such as malaria, drought-prone climates in locations not suitable for irrigation, extreme isolation in mountains and landlocked regions ... and other liabilities that have kept these areas outside of the mainstream of ... economic growth. [Those countries] face challenges almost unknown in the rich world, challenges that are at first harrowing to contemplate".

In a globalized post-cold-war world, how well countries succeed will depend upon how best they are able to plug themselves into the global economic grid. The alternative to that, which is really not an alternative, is marginalization. In that regard, we in Asia have been very encouraged by the Declaration adopted by leaders at the April 2005 Asian-African Summit to focus cooperation on three key pillars, namely, political, economic and social and cultural relations.

The international community, especially the United Nations and other development institutions, can, and should, continue to help African Governments formulate national strategies in order to bring them into the mainstream. Unless we all do so, there is a real danger that Africa will continue to lag behind the rest of the world, despite the best efforts of its leaders and peoples. In that regard, we welcome the recent decision taken by the Group of Eight countries, as well as that taken subsequently by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, to cancel the outstanding debt of highly indebted poor countries. We look forward to its outright and up-front implementation. If the sense of injustice and unfairness becomes too great, one way or another the problems of Africa will become those of the rest of the world.

Economic globalization, while providing countries with unlimited choice and markets, has also highlighted the problems of poverty, terrorism and disease. It is true that challenges and opportunities are two sides of the same coin. The reward for taking on the challenges of globalization is to gain access to external markets. It is therefore in our collective self-interest to work with our African friends through NEPAD to balance both the upside and the downside of economic globalization.

In conclusion, let me say that there is no doubt that strong national leadership backed by regional peer review and international support offers a powerful combination to improve the performance of Governments. As the third progress report on NEPAD has correctly pointed out,

> "The central challenge is to grasp the opportunity and maintain the momentum by ensuring that African Governments intensify their efforts to implement NEPAD, while the development partners honour their commitments to support Africa." (*A/60/178, summary*)

I am confident that both Africa and its development partners and friends will rise up to that challenge. In the words of President Thabo Mbeki, this is, after all, "Africa's season of hope". We must work together with Africa to ensure that our common development goals are achieved.

Ms. Al-Mulla (Kuwait) (*spoke in Arabic*): My delegation is honoured to participate in this debate on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Through the Secretary-General's third consolidated report (*A/60/178*), we have followed with interest the progress achieved by the international community on the NEPAD initiative and the support it

has provided. We have done so because Kuwait attaches great importance to that question, as it pertains to the interests and concerns of African countries, with which we maintain close historic ties.

Four years have elapsed since African leaders adopted the NEPAD initiative, which aims to achieve balanced growth on a large scale and to enable Africa to alleviate poverty and better integrate into the world economy.

Kuwait hopes that the resolutions adopted at numerous international conferences with the aim of achieving sustainable development, as well as the decisions contained in the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting (*resolution 60/1*), will help to establish the foundation for partnerships between developed and developing countries that will contribute to enhancing stability and mutual economic relations by putting in place fair and balanced rules for international trade, under which each party would assume its own share of the responsibility for meeting the special needs of Africa.

Attempts by African countries to escape the vicious cycle of eliminating the debt burden, on the one hand, and ensuring financial resources for their development goals, on the other, is one of the most significant challenges facing the African continent. The fact that some heavily indebted African countries have benefited from the cancellation of bilateral debt announced by some donor countries — including the decision taken by the Group of Eight to cancel 100 per cent of the $40 billion in debt owed by 18 low-income countries, among them 14 African countries — is a positive development that has drawn our attention.

Long before NEPAD was announced, Kuwait had already moved to alleviate African countries' debt burdens. This was demonstrated in an address by His Highness the Emir of Kuwait before the forty-third session of the General Assembly, in 1988, in which he called upon the international community, especially the donor countries, to take action to alleviate the debt burdens encumbering the economies of many developing countries, and to cancel them for countries with distressed economies.

The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) has contributed to the alleviation of the external debt burden for 14 African countries within the framework of the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Debt Initiative. The debts owed to the Fund by these countries were reduced by rescheduling them over a period of 40 years, including a 16-year grace period, with interest rates ranging from 0.5 per cent to 2 per cent. These terms were considered more attractive and easier to meet than the initial terms for those loans. Moreover, the Fund is in the process of alleviating the debts of other African countries as soon as they reach the completion point within the framework of the Initiative. Here, I would like to mention the role of the Fund of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which operates within the HIPC Initiative to alleviate the foreign debts of 18 African countries, as an aspect of the principle of partnership among developing countries themselves.

Solving the problem of external debt or cancelling debts will be neither practical nor effective unless, along with those steps, funds needed for development assistance are also provided. Kuwait can say with pride that it has abided by all of its international obligations and that, through KFAED, it continues to contribute to economic development programmes in developing countries. This Fund has granted development loans in the amount of $12 billion to more than 100 countries around the world, 40 per cent of which are in Africa. As a percentage of its gross national product (GNP), overall average Kuwaiti official development assistance is equal to nearly twice the agreed United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of the GNP of developed countries.

KFAED has contributed resources to many development institutions in Africa. For example, through the middle of 2005, the African Development Fund (ADF) had been granted development assistance amounting to $196.7 million, while the African Development Bank received $115 million, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa received $48 million and the Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification, within the International Fund for Agricultural Development, received financial aid amounting to $15 million.

Through mid-2005, KFAED has also provided grants and technical assistance valued at around $313 million. The Fund has made donations to many rehabilitation programmes, contributing to the success of the first programme to combat river blindness by providing more than $100 million to 11 African countries. The Kuwait Fund's contributions continued

until the fifth stage of the programme in 2003 and covered another 19 African countries, including Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, United Republic of Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

It is worth mentioning here the Fund's contribution to the Tropical Disease Foundation, of which the Fund is a founding member. We have also contributed to the International Development Law Institute, which has brought benefits to many African countries.

In his third consolidated report on progress in implementation and international support for NEPAD (*A/60/178*), the Secretary-General warns of grave consequences of the accumulation of debt due to the continued surge in oil prices, especially for low-income, non-oil-producing countries. Increasing oil prices in the 1970s and 1980s, he adds, were one of the main reasons behind the debt crisis from which many African countries currently suffer.

This is an attempt to simplify a complicated issue. Moreover, it ignores many similar factors that accompanied the debt crisis of the 1970s and 1980s, including a drop in the income of African countries from the revenues of their basic commodities, as well as tax limitations and taxes imposed on goods from developing countries. Oil prices, just like the prices any basic commodities, can be affected by many factors, including geographical and economic circumstances, as well as speculation, a component of Western stock markets and hedge funds.

Kuwait works diligently to ensure the stability of the international oil market in order to maintain the pace of economic development and growth for everyone. Through the OPEC Fund, Kuwait has made effective contributions to many development projects in developing countries, with 99 countries benefiting from assistance offered by the Fund, including 46 African States. The volume of soft loans granted through January 2004 amounted to $5.382 billion. This principle of partnership includes the OPEC Fund's contribution to the capital of the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) as well as grants to assist countries in subscribing to the CFC, and the OPEC Fund's contribution to the special account to fight HIV/AIDS.

Partnership is not a temporary process but rather a continuing long-term and painstaking effort requiring patience and constant assessment. In Kuwait and through the continued participation of KFAED in the ministerial meetings of the South African Development Community since the early 1980s, we have witnessed the emergence and growth of the idea of the NEPAD initiative, which demonstrates the existence of an African renaissance policy. This idea, this new partnership for success will become a reality because of the African determination to make it succeed. Contributing to the success of this partnership will be the international community's commitment to fulfilling the pledges it has made.

Mr. Rock (Canada): Canada appreciates this opportunity to record its observations and to reaffirm its commitments as we take stock together of progress in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

When the NEPAD initiative was launched in 2002, Canada welcomed it as an ambitious, yet realistic, framework to achieve sustainable development and reduce poverty in Africa. Best of all, it was a plan that was created and owned by Africa itself. It offered a vision to bring that magnificent continent fully into the global economy and to realize its tremendous potential. By adopting NEPAD, the African Union and its members not only demonstrated their commitment to improving governance, they also provided a means for the international community to join them in partnership in support of Africa's development.

NEPAD has had Canada's enthusiastic support from the outset. As president of the Group of Eight (G-8) in 2002, Canada worked with our partners to produce the G-8 Africa Action Plan, launched at the G-8 Summit in Kananaskis, Canada, in June 2002 in response to NEPAD's priorities.

The Africa Action Plan is working. NEPAD is making a difference. Governance has improved in many countries. Economic growth for the continent is projected at over 5 per cent in 2005, reflecting improvements in economic and corporate management. Africans themselves have provided leadership and have achieved significant progress in resolving several of the conflicts that have held back development, destroyed lives and impaired the futures of so many. As I observed, this progress has been by achieved by Africans themselves, from those in positions of leadership to those who work in communities, in order to ensure that Africa assumes its rightful place in the

global community and that Africans fulfil their full potential.

But despite the progress that has been achieved, so much more needs to be done, both by Africa and by its development partners, if we are to realize the NEPAD vision. Progress toward realizing the Millennium Development Goals in much of Africa has been disappointing. The toll of conflict and infectious disease continues to be devastating. Poverty remains widespread. As a sad result, too much of the energy and creativity of Africans is focused on short-term survival, instead of long-term development. That is what must change. That is why we must redouble our collective efforts to translate today's NEPAD ideals into tomorrow's reality.

Canada has always viewed NEPAD as a long-term commitment. It is essential that we, and the broader international community, working together with Africa, sustain our commitment to allow time for implementation of NEPAD's principles and programmes so that they may yield positive results.

It is for this reason that we were pleased that Africa was at the centre of the agenda of the G-8 Summit at Gleneagles in July. The G-8 leaders met with their counterparts from a number of African countries and renewed their commitment to this partnership and their long-term engagement.

As we move into the implementation phase of NEPAD, one of the most promising developments is the African Peer Review Mechanism. That mechanism demonstrates the commitment of many African Governments to improving governance. We welcome the fact that 23 African countries have now signed on to this bold and innovative initiative. The first reviews have now been launched, and we look forward to the release of reports — those on Ghana and Rwanda — in the months ahead.

Canada joins others in supporting African efforts to prevent, mediate and resolve regional conflicts and in supporting Africa's peacekeeping capacity. Canada has been proud to provide assistance to the African Union Mission in Sudan in its vital role in enhancing security in Darfur.

Turning briefly to economic matters, let me state our conviction that Africa's sustained economic growth requires, among other things, the unlocking of the capacity of the private sector in Africa and the continent's integration into the global economy. Earlier this year, Canada launched the Canada Investment Fund for Africa, a public-private initiative designed to provide risk capital for private investments in Africa. In launching this fund, we hope to encourage foreign investment that will have a positive impact on the continent's development.

Canada is also committed to an ambitious outcome to the Doha Development Round. Developed countries' markets must be opened to African producers. In 2003, Canada opened its markets to virtually all products from the least developed countries. Agricultural export subsidies must be eliminated, if we are to create an even playing field for producers from developing countries in Africa and around the world. Equally important, Africa, with the support of development partners, must work to build its capacity to trade and compete in the global economy.

Development assistance will continue to play a significant role in advancing the NEPAD agenda. Canada is fulfilling its commitment made in 2002 to increase ODA by 8 per cent per year with over 50 per cent of that amount being directed to Africa. Canadian official development assistance to Africa will double between 2003 and 2009.

One of the priority sectors of our development assistance is health, particularly combating HIV/AIDS. Total Canadian contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria since its inception are now nearly 550 million Canadian dollars. We will continue to work in common cause to defeat these devastating diseases.

Canada is committed to the NEPAD partnership over the long run. We are encouraged by the progress that has been achieved. We are conscious of the urgent need to achieve so much more. We are determined to continue working with our African partners. We support their efforts to address the challenges that Africa faces. Together, we will enable the continent to realize its full potential for the benefit of all its people and to the advantage of the entire world.

Mr. Le Luong Minh (Viet Nam): My delegation aligns itself with the statements made earlier by the distinguished representative of Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by the distinguished representative of Malaysia on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

We note with pleasure the encouraging report by the Secretary-General on the implementation of and international support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). As reflected in that report, substantive progress has been made in the promotion of peace and sustainable development in Africa. Many programmes and projects have been designed to cover all essential sectors with a view to moving African countries towards a higher level of economic and social development. We are encouraged by the fact that the Group of Eight (G-8) has decided to grant a 100 per cent multilateral cancellation of the debt owed to the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the African Development Bank by 18 low-income countries, 14 of which are African countries. The establishment of the African Peer Review Mechanism with the participation of 23 countries will serve as a useful instrument for promoting sustainable development in Africa as a whole.

We also note, however, that amid those positive developments, many difficulties and challenges remain for Africa. The Human Development Report 2005 shows that while there has been considerable progress towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals, many African countries lag far behind and are in danger of not attaining the Goals by 2015. Fifty countries, with a combined population of approximately 900 million people, are actually moving backwards in one or more of the development areas. Almost half those countries are in the poverty-stricken sub-Saharan region of Africa.

As also mentioned in the report, most regions in Africa continue to be severely affected by food crises triggered by natural disasters, conflicts, political instability, economic failure, the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria and polio. If current trends continue, there will be more than 800 million people living in abject poverty by 2015. Child mortality statistics depict a stark picture of health care in numerous countries. At the current pace, the goal of reducing the child mortality rate will be met 30 years late.

As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General, a sharp increase in international aid to Africa, especially sub-Saharan Africa, is absolutely essential for the social and economic development of the continent. Viet Nam welcomes the pledges by individual members of the Group of Eight to increase or even double aid to Africa, and the commitments by members of the European Union to double their development assistance from 2004 to 2010, with at least 50 per cent of the increase being earmarked for sub-Saharan Africa. We join others in echoing the call to development partners to fulfil their official development assistance pledges for African countries.

Trade continues to be another very important factor for the majority of African countries. To help them in that connection, developed countries should further open their markets to exports from African countries and take necessary measures to eliminate their agriculture export subsidies and trade-distorting policies.

Peace and stability are prerequisites for economic development. The report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (*A/60/182*) emphasizes that the African countries, the United Nations and the international community need to increase their efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts, strengthen peacekeeping capacities and enhance cooperation and coordination among international and regional institutions. We commend the efforts of the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States to play a greater role in peacekeeping, and we applaud the African Union's establishment last year of the Peace and Security Council. We believe that the engagement of African countries in peacekeeping operations will contribute to peace and stability in the continent.

As complementary support to the efforts made by the United Nations system and the entire international community, South-South cooperation plays a substantial role in promoting Africa's social and economic development. The Asia-Africa Summit held in Indonesia last April adopted a declaration on the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership, which expressed strong support for NEPAD as the African Union's programme for growth and socio-economic development, and endorsed the need to promote practical cooperation between the two regions in areas such as trade, tourism, investment, industry, finance, information and communication technology, energy, health, agriculture and transportation. Successful cooperation between the two continents, which have many similar conditions and which have always maintained close traditional ties, will certainly

contribute greatly to their peace, stability and development.

As an Asian country, a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations that is highly supportive of both NEPAD and the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership, and as a close friend and partner of Africa over the past years, Viet Nam has continued to promote multifaceted cooperation with African countries. Hundreds of Vietnamese experts in the fields of education, health care and agriculture continue working in a number of African countries under bilateral and tripartite cooperation agreements. As our relations of friendship and cooperation with Africa grow, let me reaffirm our commitment to working with all partners towards the implementation and the success of NEPAD.

Mr. Badji (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): Before I turn to the item under consideration, allow me, on behalf of the Government of Senegal, to convey our sincere thanks to all Members of the Organization and the bodies and the agencies of the United Nations system for the constant assistance and support that they provide to the African continent.

With the meeting of the Council of the European Union, the Group of Eight Gleneagles summit and the recent summit of heads of State and Government at the General Assembly, the year 2005 has seen a wealth of high-level meetings in which Africa was at the centre of the discussion. We consider that to be a sign of faith in the future of our continent. It is a gesture of particular significance to us as Africans.

At the outset, I wish to pay tribute to the high quality of the two reports of the Secretary-General related to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD): the third consolidated report on progress in implementation and international support (*A/60/178*) and the progress report on implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (*A/60/182*). The two reports are uncompromising and clear-sighted in their description of the implementation of NEPAD and the conflicts in Africa. They propose a broad array of relevant recommendations, which, if implemented, could contribute decisively to promoting peace and sustainable development in Africa.

Since this morning, much has been said, and said well, about the contents of those two reports and on the challenges that call on us to tackle our common cause of finding solutions to the problems of the African continent. For my part, I would like briefly to share a few observations about what my country regards as the prerequisites for real recovery in Africa. I am thinking of the problem of the external debt of African countries and the worrisome question of the integration of African countries into the world trading system.

With respect to debt, while we should welcome the recent decision of the Group of Eight to assist 14 highly indebted poor countries of Africa, including Senegal, we must acknowledge that the problem of African debt remains acute. Solving that problem requires bolder, more extensive measures that benefit a large number of countries, including middle-income countries. The Evian approach initiated by the Paris Club provides a good framework for extending debt relief to a broader range of countries; my country hopes that such an initiative will be taken.

Clearly, current debt relief initiatives enable our countries to use precious resources for financing development, but they do not ensure our debt sustainability. That is why my country fully supports the recommendation of the Secretary-General to assess a country's sustainable level of debt at a level that permits the country to achieve the Millennium Development Goals without suffering a deterioration of its debt ratio from now to 2015. We fervently hope that this recommendation will be received positively by the multilateral financial institutions, in particular the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

With respect to trade, the gradual phase-out of preferential tariff regimes for African commodities that were in place before the conclusion of the Uruguay Round resulted in significant losses in export income for our countries. The expected benefits of the increased liberalization of world trade, which were to compensate for those losses, did not materialize, due to the lack of access to foreign markets for our products. That, in short, is the problematic nature of our continent's participation in the world trading system.

Removing tariff and non-tariff barriers, eliminating subsidies and improving and diversifying supply are the proposed solutions for resolving the problem; they are well known and need no further elaboration.

I shall limit myself to recalling the proposal of the President of the Republic of Senegal, His Excellency Abdoulaye Wade, to replace the debt-and-aid equation with the option that offers salvation: growth to eliminate poverty and trade to create growth. With that formulation, President Wade is not in any way denying the vital importance and usefulness of loans and aid. Far from it, because, in the current emergency, the impact of resources stemming from loans and aid on the living conditions of millions of men and women throughout Africa is a matter of survival. Rather, for President Wade, it is a question of recognizing that, in the light of a half century of valiant development efforts by African countries, Africa's route to globalization is through trade.

The challenge for us, therefore, is to create the conditions for trade. Recent events show that whenever the international community has the will and the resolve to do so, it has been able to tackle challenges requiring greater resources and much bolder decisions than those required to better integrate Africa in the world trading system.

Africa, for its part, must further demonstrate its conviction that trade is the path of redemption for its development, and our development partners should tangibly demonstrate their resolve to help us better integrate into world trade.

To conclude, I would like briefly to share two observations prompted by the two reports of the Secretary-General. First, peace and stability in Africa will remain precarious until our countries achieve economic and social progress, which is the justification for NEPAD. Secondly, the international community's commitment to assisting Africa is real, as is the determination of our countries to implement NEPAD. However, making a commitment is one thing; honouring that commitment in a timely manner is another.

Let us act together in solidarity so that our expectations can be quickly fulfilled, marking the beginning of a new era in which Africa frees itself forever from the misfortunes of underdevelopment and becomes a genuine participant in the shared peace and prosperity of our global village.

Mr. Kafando (Burkina Faso) (*spoke in French*): Four years after the adoption of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the results are mixed. Could it be otherwise when the international community's commitments to Africa are still being awaited? Africa requires considerable outside assistance to tackle underdevelopment. The recent calls of the United Kingdom's Commission for Africa and the Millennium Project team confirm that fact.

But what exactly is the situation? One should recall, at least, that the recent world summit reaffirmed the determination of international financial donors to respond to Africa's needs so that it could be fully integrated into the world economy. Implementation of NEPAD requires coordinated efforts and action at the national, subregional, regional and international levels, which poses enormous multifaceted challenges and therefore requires the assistance of all stakeholders.

The report of the Secretary-General (*A/60/178*) underlines the major challenges to implementation of NEPAD. Let me mention three of them.

The first is strengthening the capacity of national and regional institutions responsible for promoting NEPAD. That challenge is a top priority, especially because institutional weakness can pose an obstacle to formulating, carrying out and monitoring projects.

The second is the need for greater coherence and better coordination between national development plans and the NEPAD priorities, given that a harmonization of actions at the country and continental levels is essential for achieving the expected results.

The third and most important challenge is financing. Our partners' commitment to predictable, regular financing is essential if we are properly to carry out the agreed development plans and programmes in NEPAD. In order for NEPAD to be a successful partnership, effective key actions must be taken immediately, in particular through more substantial and better targeted aid, broader debt relief and an increase of private capital flows.

For their part, African countries remain determined to undertake economic, social and political reforms. Good governance is gaining ground. Testimony of that is the enthusiasm for the African Peer Review Mechanism, which 23 countries, including Burkina Faso, have joined. We take this opportunity to thank all African countries and development partners that have made a financial contribution to the Review Mechanism.

Nonetheless, our optimism is tempered by the numerous armed conflicts that afflict our continent and

prevent the attainment of development goals. Africa therefore requires a climate of peace and security. We must strive for that by strengthening existing mechanisms for conflict management and resolution, and we must strive to put in place the appropriate frameworks for strengthening peace and the economic recovery of countries emerging from conflict.

We welcome with great satisfaction the decision of the recent world summit to create a Peacebuilding Commission. The rapid establishment of the Commission will undoubtedly contribute to curbing post-conflict difficulties.

Finally, insofar as they have become a problem for development, the fight against AIDS and malaria is a priority of NEPAD. Unfortunately, the actions taken to eradicate those scourges are too disparate and — more important — insufficient. Africa needs a true continent-wide programme if it is to effectively fight AIDS and malaria; combating those pandemics is a matter of extreme urgency.

With regard to malaria in particular, we continue to hope that the quick-win initiatives provided for in the 2005 World Summit Outcome document (resolution 60/1) will enable Africa to benefit from the international community's actions, particularly through the distribution of insecticide-treated bed nets and the provision of free antimalaria therapies.

We believe that Africa does have the potential for self-fulfilment. It asks only for support through responsible partnership based on mutual interests.

Mr. Butagira (Uganda): I align myself with the statements made by the representatives of Namibia on behalf of the African Group and of Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report on progress on implementation and international support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (A/60/178) and his report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/60/182).

The Secretary-General's reports indicate that despite a number of positive trends and advances in Africa, the conditions for sustained peace and development have yet to be consolidated. That is the result of economic and social threats, as well as of internal conflicts.

In his address to the General Assembly, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uganda said that Africa has travelled a long way in search of peace and stability. Today, there are various peace- and conflict-resolution efforts at the national, regional and African Union levels, because we realize that without peace Africa will remain mired in poverty and degradation. With regard to our own Great Lakes region, we hope that the Tripartite Commission, composed of Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and with the participation of Burundi, will help to advance the cause of peace in the region. The Inter-Governmental Authority on Development is also working to re-establish order in Somalia. The international community, under the leadership of the United Nations, should support those efforts so that we can achieve sustainable peace.

At the country level, Uganda has been fighting — single-handedly and for a long time now — the terrorists of the so-called Lord's Resistance Army in northern Uganda. They have now been virtually wiped out from that area. The Ugandan Government is grateful to the Government of the Sudan, which has allowed our forces to operate from its soil with a view to delivering a decisive blow to those terrorists. We understand that they are now on the run. We strongly urge the international community and neighbouring countries to hunt them down and disarm them, wherever they run. In fact, a number of that terrorist group's leaders have now been issued arrest warrants by the International Criminal Court. That should send a strong message to any would-be terrorists that the days of impunity are over. The amnesty law is still in force in Uganda, and whoever surrenders will be pardoned.

Uganda, like other African countries affected by conflict, needs international cooperation and assistance to supplement its post-conflict humanitarian, rehabilitation and development programmes. We therefore strongly support the setting up, by the end of December this year, of the Peacebuilding Commission, and we are confident that we will be able to agree on its composition and on other necessary modalities.

As the Secretary-General has said, the African Union needs continued international financial support to develop the African Union peacekeeping capacity and to establish the Africa Standby Force. We appreciate the support of the European Union and other donors in that endeavour. That will make NEPAD's objective of addressing the causes of conflict and the

promotion of sustainable peace and sustainable development in Africa a reality.

Action is needed at the county level. Uganda has set up a NEPAD/African Peer Review Mechanism secretariat under the National Planning Authority with responsibility for coordinating activities related to NEPAD. Our commitment to NEPAD is further demonstrated by our accession to the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), which is a self-monitoring instrument, voluntarily agreed upon by States members of the African Union, for ensuring conformity with agreed good-governance policies and practices. Uganda received Peer Review Mechanism visits in February and September 2005, and provided information on political, economic and corporate governance, as well as on the development environment, as part of the assessment preparatory process. A draft country programme of action has also been provided.

Efforts are being made to harmonize NEPAD programmes with and integrate them into our ongoing Government development strategies — such as the Poverty Eradication Action Plan and the Millennium Development Goal projects — with a view to accelerating poverty reduction, promoting regional and global initiatives at the country level and improving regional dialogue and cross-border projects that foster peacebuilding and crisis prevention.

Other measures, such as the development of a communication and advocacy strategy for the APRM country self-assessment questionnaire, have been put in place. A programme document for APRM country self-assessment has been developed and submitted to the country office of the United Nations Development Programme seeking assistance to enable the country to kick-start the self-assessment process.

Uganda has identified the following projects as a priority for the country and the region: the Kenya-Uganda oil pipeline, Mombasa port container facilities, the East African Community northern corridor road project, safe navigation on Lake Victoria, the establishment of a One-Stop border post, and the national school feeding programme. Only recently, an e-school project supported by NEPAD was inaugurated in Uganda.

None of those projects will succeed without the support of the international community. That is why we welcome the commitments made in support of NEPAD, most recently in the World Summit Outcome. It is time to honour those promises and help Africa to help itself.

Finally, we commend the United Nations for its leading role in advocacy and in mobilizing international support for NEPAD.

Mr. Siv (United States of America): The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) represents African leaders' commitment to consolidate democracy and sound economic management, fight corruption and promote peace and security. It represents their commitment to managing natural resources in a sustainable manner, and to boost investment in Africa's most valuable asset — its people. NEPAD reflects the fundamental principle that Africans must determine Africa's future. The United States strongly endorses its mission.

Malaria remains a major threat to human health and economic welfare in many parts of the world. This is especially the case in Africa, where it kills almost 1.2 million people a year, the vast majority of victims being young children. Yearly economic losses in Africa due to malaria are about $12 billion, which accounts for a 1.3 per cent annual loss in gross domestic product growth in endemic countries.

We must take the opportunity to reduce the great burden of disease posed by malaria, a disease that is both highly treatable and preventable. This past June, President Bush announced a five-year commitment of $1.2 billion by the United States for malaria prevention and treatment in Africa. The funding will be used over the next five years to prevent and treat malaria in targeted, highly endemic sub-Saharan countries.

On 1 October, programmes were launched in Angola, Tanzania and Uganda. The plan is to reach 15 countries and 175 million people. That initiative is scaling up a comprehensive approach to malaria by combining proven and effective interventions for prevention and treatment. It includes expanded access to long-lasting insecticide treated nets and indoor residual spraying with approved insecticides; the prompt use of new artemisinin-based combination therapies or other effective therapies; addressing malaria in pregnancy and working in partnership with host country Governments to build on existing national programmes.

Many actors are taking part in that effort, including the Gates Foundation and other private-

sector partners. The work of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the World Health Organization and other multilateral partners are also key to our success. Other Governments are stepping up. At Gleneagles, the G-8 pledged to scale up action against malaria with key interventions to save the lives of 600,000 children a year by 2015 and to reduce the drag on African economies. Those combined efforts can save hundreds of thousands of lives annually and help meet the mortality goal for target countries set by the Roll Back Malaria Global Strategic Plan.

Mr. Tanko (Nigeria): Nigeria is pleased that the consideration of the agenda item on Africa remains a plenary event, and wishes to thank the Secretary-General and his staff for the reports submitted to the Assembly.

We align ourselves with the statements made by the representatives of Jamaica and Namibia on behalf of Group of 77 and China and the African Group, respectively.

In his statement to the General Assembly during the general debate last September, President Olusegun Obasanjo presented a brief account on each of the troubled hot spots in Africa and highlighted the salutary efforts made by the African Union (AU) and its member countries to address conflicts in the continent. Those efforts are indicative of Africa's commitment and determination to tackle the intractable problem of conflicts and peace.

It is worth repeating that there is a link between durable peace, security and sustainable development. It is also worth underscoring the Secretary-General's view that the notion of larger freedom also encapsulates the idea that development, security and human rights go hand in hand. His conclusion that we cannot enjoy development without security, that we cannot enjoy security without development and that we will not enjoy either without respect for human rights is even more apt in the context of the implementation of the global decisions and commitments relating to Africa. Nigeria therefore agrees with the Secretary-General's assertion that, in this new millennium, the work of the United Nations must move our world closer to the day when all people have the freedom to choose the kinds of lives they would like to live, the access to the resources that would make those choices meaningful and the security to ensure that they can be enjoyed in peace.

On the political front, developments in Africa are very encouraging for the growth of democracy and constitutional governance. African leaders have proven their resolve to oppose any unconstitutional forms of governance. It is not surprising, therefore, that the Secretary-General's report, contained in document A/60/182, acknowledges that most African countries enjoy relatively stable political conditions and that the majority have democratically elected Governments.

However, Africa cannot go it alone in its quest for, and the promotion of, durable peace and sustainable development. Nigeria therefore notes with satisfaction the range of activities undertaken by various United Nations agencies in that regard. But there is much left to be done. For that reason, we would like to emphasize that durable peace and sustainable development must be founded in an environment, at all levels, that promotes transparency, accountability, economic growth, social harmony, participation, inclusiveness and larger freedoms.

To achieve that it is imperative to support and strengthen the capacity of African Governments — and especially of the African Union — to promote lasting peace and sustainable development. Nigeria calls for robust support for the establishment of the full complement of the African Peace and Security Architecture, the AU's Continental Early Warning System and the strengthening of regional efforts to raise brigades for the African Standby Force. We salute those Governments and partners that are already assisting in that area and urge others to do the same.

Nigeria welcomes the recognition in the Secretary-General's report that

> "If the expected benefits of peace do not materialize, many combatants or other neglected groups, such as unemployed youth, return to arms, either in their own country or in one of the other fragile neighbouring States faced with instability." (*A/60/182, para. 48*)

Indeed, he stresses the urgency of the need for adequate funding for reintegration and rehabilitation. In that regard, Nigeria would like to add post-conflict recovery and reconstruction activities.

Nigeria believes that the international community should also redouble its efforts to address the economic and social threats to durable peace and sustainable development identified in the Secretary-General's

report. While noting with appreciation the range of support highlighted in paragraphs 68 to 77 of the report in document A/60/182, we would like to emphasize that there should be a deliberate balance between support for peace and security activities, on the one hand, and productive activities, on the other, to foster income generation, poverty eradication, youth employment and the fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other communicable diseases. Nigeria hopes that the international community will heed the Secretary-General's call to give utmost priority to addressing the critical issues of youth and unemployment, and in particular the debilitating problems of child soldiers, as well as developing policies and programmes for the protection and empowerment of women.

In sum, Nigeria expects greater cooperation and coordination of effort in support of peace and development in Africa. Furthermore, the lessons that have been learned through the work of the Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on African countries emerging from conflict, set up by the Economic and Social Council, and the Security Council's Ad Hoc Working Group on Africa should be reflected in the formulation of the mandate and composition of the Peacebuilding Commission. Its composition must take into account invaluable regional experiences in peacebuilding measures. Countries with such experience should be considered for membership in the Peacebuilding Commission.

The year 2005 has been pivotal for Africa in several respects, principal among which was the September summit, where world leaders once more acknowledged Africa's special needs and reaffirmed their commitment to address those needs, given that Africa remains the only continent not on track to achieve any of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In that regard, Nigeria particularly welcomes the endorsement by the summit of quick-impact initiatives — made popular by the Millennium Project — to accelerate progress in countries where the achievement of the MDGs is unlikely given current trends. We urge the Assembly to mandate the Secretary-General to request the Millennium Project to assist countries that are willing and able to adopt and implement bold national development strategies.

The implementation of NEPAD will allow Africa to retain its leadership in, and ownership of, the continent's fight to eradicate poverty and better integrate into the global economy. We commend the Secretary-General for the clarity and quality of his third report on international support for the implementation of NEPAD (A/60/178). From the report it is clear that Africa has made progress in translating some of the laudable goals of NEPAD into concrete action, especially in the core priority areas of that initiative.

Three main actions will determine the success or failure of NEPAD. First, African leaders and Governments must sustain their commitment to the implementation of NEPAD. Secondly, the international community, and in particular Africa's development partners, must deliver on their various commitments to Africa. Thirdly, there must be genuine partnership, anchored in the cardinal principles of good faith and mutual accountability, both within Africa and in the outside world, to tap into the immeasurable potential of Governments and the private sector in mobilizing internal and external resources for the implementation of NEPAD.

As the Secretary-General's report clearly states, we would like to reiterate that more and better-targeted aid is needed to help countries escape the poverty trap, and that bold and integrated strategies on a scale needed to meet Africa's myriad challenges are possible and can be implemented only through strengthened partnership.

Nigeria agrees with the Secretary-General's view that the articulation of the road map for the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme was without a doubt the most important development during the past year. Africa desperately needs a green revolution as the launching pad for its development. That should be supported by a bold and imaginative industrial programme. Happily, the priorities of NEPAD have covered those areas and more, including education, science and technology, health and infrastructure.

It is abundantly clear that Africa cannot mobilize the requisite resources for the implementation of NEPAD. The international community must therefore fill the resource gaps, to accelerate the implementation and realization of the objectives of NEPAD. Notwithstanding the increase in official development assistance (ODA) to Africa, it is a matter of concern that the changing composition of aid flows could translate into fewer resources available to support the

goals of NEPAD and the Millennium Development Goals. To address that anomaly, Nigeria strongly echoes the call for the channelling of more aid resources to budget support for the implementation of the key programmes and sectors of NEPAD. Nigeria commends the European Union's commitment to disburse 50 per cent of its increased aid to sub-Saharan Africa, and it looks forward to its fulfilment.

For its part, Africa is committed to strengthening its governance practices and institutions. That was demonstrated by the coming into effect of the African Peer Review Mechanism. Nigeria is one of five countries that have received support missions preparatory to the self-assessments that will pave the way for national action plans and will ultimately lead to peer review. In addition, Nigeria will redeem its pledge of $1 million to finance the Mechanism.

Nigeria shares the conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary-General. In particular, Nigeria emphasizes the need for donors to honour their pledges to Africa in an expeditious manner. We hope that the next report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of NEPAD will include an analysis of the extent and level of the fulfilment of the pledges to Africa referred to in paragraph 61 of the report contained in document A/60/178.

Moreover, Nigeria hopes that the international community will make efforts to coordinate the various initiatives aimed at assisting Africa. In that regard, we urge the Secretary-General to move quickly to fill the vacancy brought about by the recent appointment of the former Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa to a new post. Indeed, the visibility and effectiveness of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa needs to be strengthened if the mandate of the United Nations with regard to Africa is to be fulfilled.

When the Roll Back Malaria global partnership was launched, in 1998, with the goal of halving the burden of malaria by 2010, it held out the promise of the alleviation of the suffering of millions of victims around the world, particularly in Africa, where the disease is endemic. Five years away from the target date, available statistics show that as many as 3,000 children still die in Africa every day from the disease, and that affected countries will not meet even their own modest goals by that date. It is tragic that nearly all countries in which malaria is endemic are also caught in a vicious circle of disease and poverty.

In Nigeria, malaria is responsible for 60 per cent of outpatient visits to hospitals, 20 per cent of infant mortality and 11 per cent of maternal deaths. Over 90 per cent of the population of Nigeria is at risk of a malaria attack each year. Nevertheless, Nigeria has taken a number of concrete steps to fight the menace. These include the introduction of a national health insurance services scheme, prompt access to appropriate treatment within 24 hours and the availability of insecticide-treated bed nets to the most vulnerable groups of society. In addition, a social welfare services scheme has been established that includes programmes on qualitative education, improving primary health-care facilities and providing social services.

Given the enormity of the problem, it is obvious that African countries and the international community must rise to the challenges of malaria and related diseases. That becomes even more urgent now that certain strains of the malarial parasite have become resistant to standard medical drugs. In order to give effect and meaning to the recognition by world leaders at the 2005 summit that infectious diseases such as malaria pose severe risks for the entire world and serious challenges to the achievement of development goals, adequate and predictable domestic and external resources must be devoted to malaria prevention and control.

We look forward to a review of progress in the implementation of the resolutions that will result from this debate.

Mr. Ozawa (Japan): My delegation will touch upon both agenda item 66 and agenda item 47.

We would first like to thank the Secretary-General for his two comprehensive reports on agenda item 66 (*A/60/178* and *A/60/182*).

The year 2005 has witnessed unprecedented pledges of support for Africa at various forums, culminating in the pledges declared at the High-level Plenary Meeting, in September. Japan believes that promoting the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) will definitely contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals in African countries.

Japan welcomes the fact that African countries have made much progress in implementing NEPAD programmes since the Partnership's launching, especially in the fields of agriculture and infrastructure. We recognize, however, that the capacities of the NEPAD secretariat and the regional economic communities, which act as its supporting bodies, need to be strengthened. To that end, Japan will continue to support capacity-building programmes by mobilizing its aid resources, including technical cooperation. We also welcome the progress we are seeing in the African Peer Review Mechanism, and we will continue to support the endeavours of African countries towards the goal of good governance, while respecting their ownership.

Japan is strengthening its partnership with NEPAD through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) process, which focuses on three areas: the consolidation of peace, poverty reduction through economic growth and human-centred development. In the interests of time, I will limit my remarks on agenda item 66 to the consolidation of peace, and will ask the Assembly to refer to my written statement in connection with the two other areas.

Japan welcomes the fact that Africa has strengthened its capacity in the area of the consolidation of peace. Indeed, without support from the African Union, progress towards peace in Burundi, Darfur and Côte d'Ivoire could not have been made. Peace-related efforts by the Economic Community of West African States, the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, the Southern Africa Development Community and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development also deserve commendation. Japan truly respects the fact that the commitment of African countries to peace is now being translated into concrete action. To encourage such positive developments, Japan will organize a TICAD conference on the consolidation of peace early next year, focusing on African ownership and human security.

For its part, Japan has recently enhanced its support for such actions by African countries by contributing about $61 million to such countries as Sierra Leone, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Sudan and Burundi, as well as by disbursing emergency grant aid amounting to about $32 million to support the repatriation and resettlement of refugees and internally displaced persons in the Sudan.

Allow me now to turn to agenda item 47, on the Decade to Roll Back Malaria. We are all aware that, although malaria remains a major worldwide health problem, we do have at our disposal effective tools to control the problem. In order to develop effective and sustainable strategies to combat malaria, we must not rely on fragmented approaches to disease control, but instead work to establish national health care systems. We believe that capacity-building in the public health sector is essential in that regard. At the same time, the amount of international assistance for developing countries hardest hit by malaria, especially those in Africa, needs to be increased in order to ensure universal access to health services.

To scale up malaria control efforts, the Government of Japan has announced its health and development initiative, which amounts to $5 billion, and an additional contribution of $500 million in the coming years to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Also, in response to calls for "quick win" actions in the Millennium Project report, Japan has decided to donate 10 million long-lasting insecticide-treated anti-mosquito bed nets to African countries, the distribution of which has already begun. In the private sector, a Japanese company is working to provide a reliable supply of low-cost nets.

We feel that NEPAD provides us with a solid framework to address the challenges confronting Africa. Japan is committed to supporting NEPAD programmes of action in such diverse areas as peace and security, health and development. With regard to malaria, Japan is prepared to work with the international community to pursue effective strategies to control its spread and eliminate the socio-economic handicap it places on many developing countries.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.

United Nations A/60/PV.33

General Assembly
Sixtieth session

Official Records

33rd plenary meeting
Friday, 14 October 2005, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Eliasson ..... (Sweden)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 7 (*continued*)

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

Letter from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/60/344/Add.1)

The President: Members are aware that, pursuant to paragraph 7 of section I of General Assembly resolution 40/243, no subsidiary organ of the General Assembly should be permitted to meet at United Nations Headquarters during the main part of the Assembly's regular session unless explicitly authorized by the Assembly.

Authorization is thus sought for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women to hold the continuation of its session in New York during the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, on the clear understanding that the continuation of the session will have to fit in with the available facilities and services and will not affect adversely the activities of the General Assembly. It is also understood that everything possible will be done to ensure the most efficient use of conference services.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to authorize the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women to meet during the main part of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly?

It was so decided.

Agenda items 66 and 47 (*continued*)

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

(a) New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

Report of the Secretary-General (A/60/178)

Note by the Secretary-General (A/60/85)

(b) Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General (A/60/182)

2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa

Note by the Secretary-General (A/60/208)

Mr. Jenie (Indonesia): The delegation of Indonesia would like to thank the Secretary-General for his third consolidated report indicating the progress being made to implement the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (A/60/178). In commenting on the report, Indonesia would like to

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associate itself with the statement by the representative of Malaysia on behalf of the member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), as well as with the statement by the representative of Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

The report gives us cause to be optimistic and encourages the international community to see Africa as a continent of opportunity. Contrary to the persistent negative media images circulated around the world daily, we get from the report a balanced picture of a continent reinventing itself and using the NEPAD framework for its development. Indonesia fully supports that process, which has led to noteworthy changes thus far.

That is not to suggest that the road ahead is an easy one. There are constraints. Without significant international support, African States will find it extremely difficult to implement NEPAD, which will endow them with the capacity to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as well. So far, they have been able to lay a solid foundation through critical political and social reforms to facilitate the implementation process and eventually allow African States to become fully integrated into the global economy.

Like the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1), which specifies the role of the international community in the NEPAD implementation process, the Secretary-General's report is equally precise about the various forms of international support that should be provided. Indonesia agrees with the view that donors must live up to their commitments to promote free and fair trade, with more reliable access to developed markets, as well as for affordable antiretroviral drugs to be made easily available so that African countries can contain the HIV/AIDS pandemic, which has severely undermined the development process on the continent.

Donors must also increase official development assistance (ODA) and provide Africa with greater debt relief. We therefore support the position taken by the African Group, as put forward by Namibia, welcoming the decision of the G-8 to completely cancel the debt of heavily indebted poor countries, a measure that has found favour with the International Monetary Fund and the African Development Bank. But such relief should be extended to include countries other than heavily indebted poor ones, as well as non-African middle-income countries.

In the face of such pressing needs, there can hardly be enough support to enable Africa to eliminate unwanted constraints on its development. In that connection, and on the basis of its long history of cooperation with African countries, dating back to the Bandung Conference of 1955, Indonesia has been actively involved in a number of initiatives that will help to accelerate the implementation of NEPAD and the achievement of the MDGs.

Perhaps the most important of those initiatives is the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership, which was launched during the Asian-African Summit held in Jakarta in April 2005. That Summit commemorated the golden jubilee of the 1955 Asian-African Conference, which marked a turning point in the political history of both continents. Speaking from a platform for justice, the 1955 Conference strengthened resolve for the battle against colonialism.

The old enemy to Asian-African development then was colonialism; the current enemy is poverty. The Strategic Partnership is designed to promote not only continued political solidarity but also to strengthen socio-cultural relations and enhance economic cooperation. Of particular concern, therefore, is the need for poverty reduction. Building on existing initiatives, the Partnership will allow Asia and Africa to pool their resources and expertise for people-centred development.

With human development in mind, an Asian-African development university network is currently being developed. With the cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations University and UNESCO, a pre-feasibility study has already been completed to pinpoint the resources available to the network to satisfy the specific needs that will be addressed initially. Indonesia is a member of the core group working on the network, along with Algeria, Japan and South Africa. The network, which embodies the inclusive spirit of South-South cooperation, has prioritized agriculture and food security, the promotion of small-and medium-sized enterprises, health and infrastructure — primarily power, water, telecommunications and transport — for immediate action.

The Strategic Partnership will also focus on trade and investment-facilitation programmes, which will allow for a consistent and profitable flow of goods and

services between the two regions. As a means of constantly expanding that interaction, there will be regular exchanges of information to encourage the promotion of trade and business opportunities between the two regions.

The private sectors in both regions are expected to play a key role in building Asian-African economic dynamism. To facilitate that cooperation, the Summit of heads of State and Government also featured the Asia-Africa Business Summit, which focused on exploring business opportunities and promoting trade and investment and ways to generate the required resources for the initiative. That connection will create the possibility for joint ventures, mergers and capital market cooperation. Steps were also taken to address energy issues, with the cooperation of the private sector. The Asian-African Symposium on Renewable Energy urged the formulation of an action plan for the two regions covering the period 2005-2015.

Mr. Zarif (Islamic Republic of Iran), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The Partnership will also foster greater people-to-people contacts. Prior to the 2005 Asian-African Summit, Indonesia hosted the Asian-African Workshop on the Role of Women and Youth in April 2005 in Jakarta. The workshop endorsed the need to promote and improve the status, role and condition of women and youth within the context of NAASP, as an integral part of the well-being and prosperity of the two continents.

Through technical cooperation among developing countries, Asian countries — Indonesia included — have been able to share information about best practices for development with African countries and have contributed to the pool of skills and expertise that can be applied to problem-solving activities affecting Africa's development. Between 1998 and 2005, Indonesia trained Africans from a number of countries in such diverse fields as family planning and health, rural development, agriculture, forestry and microfinance. Within the framework of the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation in Indonesia, my country plans to provide further training on small- and medium-sized enterprises, microfinance and the application of information and communication technology.

The various initiatives I have mentioned are a reflection of continued solidarity with and support for our African brothers, who are now implementing NEPAD and pursuing the MDGs with the expectation of success in the future. As mentioned in the NEPAD Charter, Africans must be the architects of their own sustained advancement. But for the process of empowerment and self-reliance to be successful, external support would be helpful. Indonesia will continue to play its part.

Mr. Okio (Congo) (*spoke in French*): Our head of delegation has asked me to read the following statement. I would like to commend the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, for the excellent report that he has presented, for the third consecutive year, on progress in implementation of and international support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (A/60/178). Once again, this comprehensive report has drawn our attention not only to the challenges and constraints that we need to tackle and overcome, but also to progress accomplished in the implementation of NEPAD.

Our delegation associates itself with the statements made by Martin Andjaba, Permanent Representative of Namibia, on behalf of the African Group, and Stafford Neil, Permanent Representative of Jamaica, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. As others delegations have done, I would just like to add a few remarks.

Four years ago, African leaders adopted NEPAD with the objective of realizing broad and equitable growth that would help Africa to reduce poverty and better integrate itself into the international economy. Assessing the situation right now, it is very tempting to say that very little progress has been made over the past year — especially given that any progress made is dwarfed by the extent of such challenges as the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, mercenaries, the illegal exploitation of natural resources, youth unemployment and HIV/AIDS. First, however, we should be pleased with the efforts made by African countries to promote peace and security, as well as to develop NEPAD priority programmes and projects in areas such as transport, energy, water, health, education and information technology, environment, agriculture, science and technology, and industrialization, among others. We are sure that those efforts will yield results if they are given the necessary support.

This is also an opportunity to note with satisfaction the mobilization of international public

opinion in favour of Africa over the past year and the support that donor countries, partners in development, have pledged to the continent. We are very impressed with the declarations made here by Canada and the European Union to increase official development assistance (ODA) and everything else that will be done in that connection. The Group of Eight decision at Gleneagles to cancel the debt of 18 low-income countries, 14 of which are African, and the recent commitments undertaken by a number of developed countries at the recent world summit to increase their ODA are also encouraging signs for Africa and for the implementation of NEPAD. We hope that some of those measures, such as debt cancellation, will be broadened to include other groups of countries that have been excluded up till now, although they are eligible under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Debt Initiative.

In order to effect urgent implementation of NEPAD and give it substantial reinforcement, I would also like to affirm our support for the key points outlined by the Secretary-General in his report. At the regional level, among others, there is a need to build the capacities of national and regional institutions tasked with implementing NEPAD by providing them with the appropriate technical skills and adequate financial resources. We must assure greater consistency and better coordination between national development plans and NEPAD priorities through, among others, the NEPAD Peer Review Mechanism, which was set up with support from the United Nations Development Programme, and to which the Congo already belongs. We should also encourage a greater participation by the private sector in the implementation of NEPAD projects and programmes. At the international level, we must urge Africa's development partners to be diligent in disbursing funds for the implementation of NEPAD priority projects. We must promote and accelerate South-South cooperation, whose importance has already been emphasized at the Asian-African Summit held in Jakarta in April 2005 and at the second South Summit held in Doha in June 2005. At the next World Trade Organization meeting, to be held in Hong Kong in December 2005, trade decisions need to be made that are of particular interest to Africa — namely, the gradual elimination of rich countries' subsidies to their agricultural producers and the granting of access for African products to international markets. And, finally, the quality and coordination of United Nations system support for NEPAD must be improved through regular in-depth consultations with the African Union.

In concluding my review, I would like to reaffirm our support for the third report of the Secretary-General. The key points of that report constitute a genuine programme for the rapid implementation of and more efficient support for NEPAD.

Mr. Kapoma (Zambia): My delegation wishes to take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General for his informative reports on the agenda items we are discussing today. We find those reports to be very useful in our discussions.

My delegation would like to associate itself with the statements made by the representatives of Namibia on behalf of the African Group, Lesotho on behalf of the countries members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

At their Lusaka summit in 2001, the heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU) adopted the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) programme, the main objective of which is to enhance the capacity of African countries to reduce the high incidence of poverty on the continent and to strengthen efforts to achieve economic development. While we acknowledge the fact that the support provided so far by the international community has assisted us in the process of attaining NEPAD's objectives, it is also true that that support has proved to be insufficient and needs to be increased. Although NEPAD is an initiative by and for African countries themselves, there is an urgent need for more support from the international community.

The African Union has adopted the African Peer Review Mechanism, whose mandate is to ensure that the policies and practices of participating countries conform to the agreed political, economic and corporate values, codes and standards contained in the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance of the African Union. To that end, member States of the African Union have committed themselves to adopting relevant laws, policies and standards and to building the necessary human and institutional capacities.

Within the framework of NEPAD, Zambia is focusing on the provision of infrastructure at the national level by upgrading existing infrastructures and

constructing new ones in the sectors of agriculture, tourism, mining, education, health and human resources.

With regard to malaria, Zambia fully supports the conclusions and recommendations of the World Health Organization contained in document A/60/208, which, among other things, states that malaria-endemic countries should assess and respond to the need for integrated human resources at all levels. That would be in accordance with the targets of the 2000 Abuja Declaration to Roll Back Malaria in Africa and with the internationally agreed Development Goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

My Government, together with cooperating partners, have launched the national malaria control strategy, whose goal is to accelerate and document the impact of progress towards meeting Zambia's malaria control target. In that regard, my Government has adopted a new malaria treatment policy to overcome the problem of drug resistance. Furthermore, we have remained committed to health reform despite the many challenges the health sector is facing, and we continue to provide subsidized insecticide-treated nets and drugs to needy communities.

My delegation welcomes the September 2005 outcome document (resolution 60/1) of the United Nations world summit, which, among other things, recognizes that HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases pose severe risks for the entire world. Those diseases remain serious challenges to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. My Government, through an act of Parliament, has established the National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council to coordinate all interventional efforts.

In conclusion, my delegation appeals to the international community as a whole, and in particular to the United Nations system, to continue to provide support to Zambia in the fight against malaria and other infectious diseases.

Mr. Aliyev (Azerbaijan): My delegation appreciates the opportunity to participate in this joint debate and to share its views on issues related to the promotion of development and durable peace in Africa.

The third consolidated report of the Secretary-General (A/60/178) provides useful analysis of progress and constraints encountered within the reporting period. In that regard, we would like to commend the work of the Secretary-General's Advisory Panel on International Support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the conclusion of which is crystal-clear: "NEPAD cannot succeed without a significant increase in support from the international community" (*Ibid., para. 3*).

We are pleased to find that an unprecedented increase in international attention in support of Africa has been observed. Therefore, we would like to pay tribute to Mr. Ibrahim Gambari, former Special Adviser on Africa, for his dedication to promoting the global partnership for Africa's development. Likewise, we praise the efforts of African countries themselves and the progress made in the areas of good governance, democracy and human rights. The positive shift in nearly all priority areas agreed within the NEPAD framework is also an encouraging sign. However, another — and perhaps the most important — attainment is the increase in the regional integration component, the building of regional economic communities and ultimately the consolidation of a holistic approach to development on the basis of national ownership. We believe that those positive signs will serve as an impetus to further strengthen international support aimed at overcoming development challenges.

The Secretary-General's report states clearly that the absence of infrastructure remains a serious challenge and has a broad range of implications. Therefore, we believe that increased investments in the area of capacity-building and infrastructure development will yield long-term benefits.

Furthermore, regional and subregional cooperative arrangements, backed by international support, could enhance the development of energy corridors, an efficient transit-transport system and increased regional trade turnover. In the long run, such arrangements could have the potential to build a self-sufficient regional economic network. In the meantime, we are convinced that support for the social sector — particularly for the areas of health and education — should be an essential component of the overall international framework for providing assistance to NEPAD's economic agenda.

We believe that South-South cooperation — in particular the training of health professionals and knowledge exchange programmes — has the potential

to address existing challenges in the area of health delivery and management.

With regard to the international response, we welcome and support the according of priority to Africa's needs on the international development agenda and the reaffirmation of our commitments in the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1). Furthermore, we hail recent initiatives in the areas of aid and debt relief. We also consider the forthcoming ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization to be a crucial opportunity to make the trade regime more favourable and development-oriented, especially in the interest of the least developed countries.

We studied with great interest the Secretary-General's report in document A/60/182. It presents a useful overview of conflict trends in Africa as well as an analysis of the effectiveness of international cooperation in the areas of conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping operations, reconstruction and rehabilitation.

Although there are fewer countries in a state of armed conflict and civil strife on the continent, we should obviously not be complacent because of what has been achieved so far. Economic and social threats, on the one hand, and internal conflicts, on the other, continue to jeopardize dialogues aimed at consolidating the peace. We are convinced that the international community should address those threats in a timely, coherent and comprehensive manner, with the United Nations playing a leading role.

Here, we should mention the strengthening of African Union's peacebuilding and peacekeeping capacities. We support the Secretary-General's recommendation that "it is vital for the international community to provide the necessary financial support to develop African Union peacekeeping capacity and to establish the African Standby Force" (*A/60/182, para. 81*).

With regard to peacebuilding and reconstruction, we believe that disarmament, the reintegration of refugees and post-conflict long-term development should be one of the most important and essential components of post-conflict activities. Therefore, we have supported the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission and look forward to its early implementation.

Because Azerbaijan is a conflict-affected country and one whose economy is in transition, it has limited financial resources to channel to the implementation of NEPAD. However, we stand ready to provide our institutional and human capacities for the benefit of this Partnership. As an oil-producing and exporting country, Azerbaijan holds a strong comparative advantage in educating petroleum engineers, workers and researchers. For decades, many young and ambitious men and women from fraternal African countries have received their higher education in our Oil Academy, as well as in other educational institutions. We are proud to say that today many of them occupy important positions in their respective Governments and in the private sector across Africa and contribute to their national development. Azerbaijan is ready to provide assistance in educating and training young African professionals. We believe that the continuation of this partnership would be a good contribution to building African human capacity and ensure sustainable and rational management of natural resources throughout the entire African continent.

Mr. Chaudhry (Pakistan): For the third year running, this Assembly is jointly considering the progress in the implementation of and international support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the recommendations of the Secretary-General. We welcome this practice. It is in line with the long-held view, also recognized recently by the 2005 September summit, that development and peace and security are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. Durable peace can be achieved only through a comprehensive strategy.

We are pleased to note that the two complementary reports of the Secretary-General under this agenda item present a comprehensive picture of the progress made in promoting sustainable development and peace and security in Africa over the past year.

Economic and social threats, including poverty, infectious disease and environmental degradation, as well as internal conflicts, continue to afflict the continent. The Secretary-General has noted that while the international community's attention has been forcefully directed to the importance of such threats, there is concern that the financial and human resources required to solve the multidimensional interlinked problems will fall well short of what is needed.

It is encouraging that last month's United Nations summit resolved to strengthen cooperation with NEPAD by mobilizing internal and external financial resources to support Africa. The 2005 summit also reaffirmed that development is a central goal in itself. Pakistan strongly believes that development is the best means of preventing conflict in the first place, not just to prevent a relapse into conflict.

We commend the African leadership for their vision in launching NEPAD, an Africa-led, Africa-owned and Africa-driven initiative providing an integrated and comprehensive framework for Africa's sustainable growth and development.

The report of the Secretary-General on progress in implementation and international support for NEPAD (A/60/178) rightly calls attention to the challenges and constraints in its implementation. We support the Secretary-General's recommendations calling for, first, building the capacity of national and regional institutions entrusted with the tasks of implementing NEPAD; secondly, ensuring greater coherence and coordination between national development plans and NEPAD priorities; thirdly, promoting greater involvement of the private sector in the implementation of NEPAD programmes and projects; fourthly, the international community's honouring of commitments made and delivering the pledged support; and fifthly, African countries showing their commitment to social and economic reforms through sound economic management and the implementation of NEPAD priorities.

We welcome the World Bank's initiative to develop the Africa Action Plan.

The Secretary-General's progress report relating to the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/60/182) highlights in particular the need for special attention to post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding, which is of significant relevance to Africa. Resolution 59/255, adopted by the General Assembly last year, emphasized the need for continued collaboration between the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council in generating a coherent approach.

In the context of peace and security, a major achievement of the September summit was the decision to establish the Peacebuilding Commission, which is of high relevance to Africa. Africa also stands to gain immensely from the summit's decisions on the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention, peacekeeping, the rule of law, internally displaced persons, refugee protection and assistance, protection from genocide, system-wide coherence — in particular for humanitarian assistance — and cooperation with regional organizations.

The challenge ahead is to implement all these decisions and commitments. This requires the continued and sustained support of the international community. We welcome in that context the commitment for long-term support to Africa from the European Union and the Group of Eight.

For its part, Pakistan has consistently backed the political and economic aspirations of Africa and strongly supports effective and speedy implementation of NEPAD's objectives.

In the field of peace and security, Pakistan is proud of its contribution to the United Nations peacekeeping operations in Africa. Our military and civilian personnel have been part of United Nations operations in Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Namibia, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Western Sahara.

In the context of South-South cooperation, Pakistan has been providing assistance to African countries in various fields. Under the Government's special technical assistance programme for Africa, hundreds of young African professionals have received training in Pakistan in various fields, including banking, public administration, diplomacy and civil aviation. Pakistan also offers military training to officers from a number of African countries. We are in the process of further expanding the scope and scale of our assistance and cooperation programmes for Africa.

I wish to conclude by saying that the challenges faced by Africa are colossal, but the opportunities, means and resources to address those challenges are also immense. NEPAD presents a realistic framework for action. The African Union is emerging as a dynamic factor promoting African ownership in tackling Africa's problems. The subregional organizations in the African continent are also playing an important role. We are hopeful that these regional and subregional mechanisms will be able to devote more attention and resources to social and economic development in the future as conflicts and crises that

sap most of their energy at present are brought under control.

Important and far reaching international commitments are there to assist Africa. With the commensurate political will on the part of the international community, in particular the developed world, to faithfully implement these commitments, Africa can hope to realize its full political and economic potential, thus contributing to international peace and security.

Mr. Irhiam (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*spoke in Arabic*): Sir, I am happy to see you presiding over our discussion of items of particular importance for the African continent, to which my country belongs. I wish to pay tribute to the preliminary statement of the President of the General Assembly; it is important, and I am sure it will play an important role in our discussions on this subject. I would also like to endorse the statements made by the representatives of Namibia and Jamaica, on behalf of the African Group and the Group of 77 and China, respectively.

African heads of State have long understood that achieving peace and stability on the African continent is a prerequisite for development. That has been repeatedly reaffirmed by the Secretary-General in his reports to the General Assembly. The African Union (AU) has therefore made every effort necessary to achieve international peace and security on our beloved continent, especially by establishing the Peace and Security Council, which has been charged with the responsibilities of defining threats to peace and of maintaining peace. The AU has also strengthened its capacities to intervene and mediate by establishing the African Peace Facility. It is now attempting to establish an African Standby Force and a Continental Early Warning System.

While we pay tribute to the effective contribution of the United Nations in resolving conflicts and establishing peace on the African continent, we also hope that the international community will provide the financial support necessary to strengthen the capacities of the AU in the area of maintaining peace, in order that it can succeed in ending all conflicts on the continent, especially since the number of such conflicts has been greatly reduced in recent years.

African leaders have reaffirmed their commitment and determination to ensure the success of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) by adopting effective measures to implement it, given that it is an initiative aimed at achieving the aspirations of African countries in comprehensive development and ensuring their integration into the global economy. Africa is well aware that it has the primary responsibility for the implementation of NEPAD. However, the chronic weakness of African economies, resulting from the plundering of resources and the deprivation of Africans during the long period of colonization, leaves African countries no choice but to resort to the financial support of the United Nations system, international financial institutions and developed countries in order to reach NEPAD's goals.

In his report in document A/60/178, the Secretary-General points out that NEPAD can succeed only with considerable increased support from the international community. The report also states that it is urgent that the commitments made by Africa's development partners be translated into concrete results.

Without going into details and figures, I would like to underscore Libya's contribution to various fields of development in African countries. We have provided assistance to combat epidemic diseases and overcome the effects of natural disasters — including floods, droughts and infestation by locusts and other pests. We should also like point to our involvement in South-South cooperation with neighbourly Nigeria and friendly Cuba in the medical field in order to set up clinics and medical centres to provide treatment and medicines in many African countries.

Taking into consideration the rise in the price of oil and its disastrous effects on African countries, particularly those experiencing economic crises, Libya has called for the convening of a meeting of African oil-producing countries to find a solution to this problem.

Given the bleak statistics on Africa and the prevalence of such diseases as AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis — with their human consequences and the material and financial effects on budgets and development plans on the continent — we believe that the future consequences of the situation will have an impact upon peace and security not only in Africa, but also in the world at large. In that regard, allow me to convey to the General Assembly what a journalist reported on his visit to an African village. He found only old men and women, as well as children, but no

one representing the age groups in between. The journalist thought that the young had gone to neighbouring villages and cities to "find work in various areas, but he was surprised to learn that the young people had simply died of AIDS. The only people left in the village were children and old people, some of whom also carried the disease. That story reminds us of Africa's difficult situation.

We have recognized that peace, security, development and human rights are inextricably linked. They constitute the pillars of the international order and the foundations of peace and prosperity. It is for that reason that it is difficult for the international community to enjoy those concepts in the absence of development in Africa. There cannot be overall development and stability in the world without development in Africa.

We would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the World Health Organization and Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS for their efforts to combat AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. We also wish to emphasize the important role played by doctors and other health workers in African countries.

We would like to emphasize that developed countries must keep their promises. The time has come for words to be translated into concrete actions.

Mr. Zhdanovich (Belarus) (*spoke in Russian*): In debating the problems in Africa, we are pleased to note the positive nature of recent trends on the continent. These include a significant reduction in the number of major conflicts, the establishment of the African Peer Review Mechanism to support national efforts to strengthen the system of political, economic and corporate governance, and an increase in the rate of economic growth on the continent, although it is not yet sufficient to ensure the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

We view the strengthening of stability on the African continent as one of the major challenges facing the international community. Achieving that must become a critical component of developing a global system under the auspices of the United Nations to confront the threats and challenges of today's world.

Along with the rest of the international community, Belarus welcomes the establishment of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). NEPAD reflects the desire of the peoples of Africa to take the issues of development on the continent into their own hands and to put an end to hunger, poverty, illness and inequality. We are convinced that the international community must more actively support the process of implementing that programme, in particular by allocating to it the appropriate financial resources.

In the run up to the 2005 World Summit, much was said — in particular by our partners from the industrialized countries — about the importance of good governance at all levels for sustainable economic growth and social progress throughout the world.

NEPAD is a vivid example of good governance on the regional level. We believe that the recently held United Nations summit must become a starting point for an acceleration of the process of implementing that programme. In an era of globalization, not only would that make Africa a winner, but the entire world as well.

Mrs. Núñez de Odremán (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela supports the statement made by the Jamaican Ambassador on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. However, we would like to comment, in particular concerning our country, with reference to the item discussed today.

During the eighteenth century, Africans from Senegal, Sierra Leone, Benin and the Gulf of Guinea were brought to colonial Venezuela, where they were subjected to slavery in the same manner as they were in all regions of the Caribbean. They were used as manpower on coffee, cocoa and sugarcane plantations and as domestic workers by the Creole landowners and colonial authorities, who ruled the land.

While they were not a majority of the Venezuelan population, which consisted of Spanish descendants and various indigenous groups among others, they were a large part of the population and formed a core population in areas along the approximately 2,000 kilometres of the Venezuelan Caribbean coastline. That is where the roots of African culture were sown; today they form a proud part of the vibrancy of our cultural heritage and our national identity.

Three centuries of racial intermingling have led to an African imprint on all the regions of our country, throughout which our people's faces reveal, in an indivisible mixture, their African and indigenous

ancestry along with their Spanish genetic and cultural inheritance.

The process of gaining independence from Spanish imperialism was transformed from a class struggle to a national one by the action taken in 1816 by the elite civilian and military liberators, who were nurtured by the first anti-colonial rebellion in the Caribbean — the Haitian Revolution of 1804.

Subsequently our liberator, Simón Bolívar, out of gratitude for the solidarity of the people and Government of Haiti, issued a decree in 1816 to embark from Haiti, land on the east coast of Venezuela and declare the liberation of the slaves in Venezuela — an act that had a decisive impact on the strengthening of the process of emancipation of our countries. That liberation was subsequently confirmed and further developed in 1854 during the Government of the Bolivarian General José Gregorio Monagas.

During the 1970s and 1980s, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela continued to pursue a foreign policy begun during the Second World War, namely to offer its support for achieving the independence of African peoples, including in some areas where great conflicts took place during the struggles for national liberation, as was the case in Namibia. We also maintained a position — from the rostrum of this Assembly — supporting the elimination of apartheid in South Africa.

African colonial inheritance persists today as a reality for the peoples of the continent, subject directly or indirectly to intervention by the former colonial Powers, which have resisted abandoning their past practices. We must therefore resolutely confront division, exploitation, exclusion, poverty and hunger, as a result of that scourge.

Today we appreciate the demographic strength, the hydrologic potential, the arable lands, the mineral wealth and the profound awareness of the African leaders and the resurgence of their will to achieve integration and their devotion to multilateralism and presence in the international community as a regional progressive identity. We welcome that identity as indispensable for achieving balance among nations and the eradication of hunger, universal poverty and the exclusion of peoples.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has assumed a growing role in its relations with Africa and we share the suffering, achievements and dreams of Africans as brothers. We have built bridges of friendship, solidarity and identity towards Africa through our foreign policy to defend sovereignty, multipolarity and multilateralism as well as their institutional expression, as we also share our untiring struggle against poverty at the global level.

At the beginning of 2005 our relations with the African continent were, we believe, meagre and inadequate. They scarcely existed with Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Egypt, Nigeria, South Africa, Senegal, Kenya, Namibia, Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Equatorial Guinea, Lesotho, Rwanda, the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, Tanzania, Tunisia, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, where there were few embassies and in most cases representation was present only as needed. There were no relations with the other 20 African countries, most of them in sub-Saharan Africa.

In December 2004, we established a new section in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs — the Vice Ministry for Africa. During its short existence it has established diplomatic relations with the Republic of the Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mauritius, Chad and Somalia. We have adhered to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Humanitarian aid in the amount of $3 million has been provided to Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger in the context of South-South cooperation.

A subcommittee for Asia the Middle East and Africa was created within the National Assembly. That subcommittee has made three visits, the first in March 2005 to Morocco and Mali, the second to Sudan and Egypt in June and the third to Senegal, Gambia, Benin and Nigeria in October. It was announced that by next year, the Republic will have relations with all of the African States. The subcommittee has submitted a request to join the African Union as an observer State. Lastly, from 13 to 20 November 2005, there will be a Venezuelan cultural festival with the African people. Eighteen African nations have already confirmed their intention to attend.

Finally, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomes the political measures and initiatives adopted by African countries and organizations with a view to implementing the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

Mr. Zenna (Ethiopia): Allow me to express my appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan, for establishing the Advisory Panel on International Support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). I would also like to thank the Secretary-General's Advisory Panel on NEPAD for its report, entitled "From rhetoric to action: mobilizing international support to unleash Africa's potential" (A/60/85).

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by the Permanent Representatives of Jamaica, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and Namibia, on behalf of the African Group.

The report of the Secretary-General on progress in implementation and international support for NEPAD (A/60/178) once again brings to the attention of the international community the need to remain engaged with Africa as regards the basic tenets of NEPAD. In our view, the two central messages of the report are a reflection of the mutual responsibility and accountability underpinning NEPAD. That is what African leaders had in mind when they initiated NEPAD. Indeed, the Partnership cannot succeed without a significant increase in support from the international community, nor can it succeed without Africa's commitment to improved economic and political governance.

The primary focus of the African Union is to put the continent's socio-economic development agenda at the forefront and to work closely with its partners to bring about real changes in development on the continent. In that regard, NEPAD is the most effective instrument to promote the socio-economic agenda for the betterment of the people of Africa and to put Africa in the international development spotlight.

Let me take this opportunity to briefly highlight the major steps taken under NEPAD at the regional level in accordance with its programme of action.

Under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, bankable projects have been prepared in more than 30 African countries and tremendous efforts have been made to develop a tracking mechanism to monitor the commitments made by African Governments to allocate 10 per cent of their national budgets to agriculture.

With regard to NEPAD's African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), the panel of eminent persons making up this programme has already been identified. As of August 2005, 25 countries, including my own, have voluntarily signed up for the APRM, and the process has begun with a number of reviews.

In the area of infrastructure and capacity-building, high-priority projects have been approved by the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee to be implemented by regional economic communities.

Ethiopia has been engaged in implementing various policies and programmes that are in line with NEPAD. Efforts are being made in the areas of political and economic governance. On 15 May 2005, Ethiopia carried out its third-ever multiparty elections. Efforts are also under way to improve the public sector, with a view to making it much more transparent, accountable and efficient. Ethiopia has designed, and begun to implement, a capacity-building strategy in the public sector. Anti-corruption measures have also been put in place.

With regard to expenditure targets — in conformity with Ethiopia's long-term development strategy, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), our sustainable development and poverty reduction programme and NEPAD — Government spending has been progressively oriented towards poverty reduction expenditure in the areas of education, health and agriculture.

The President returned to the Chair.

With regard to the gender perspective and the empowerment of women, several measures have been undertaken in recent years to enhance the empowerment of women. In that connection, the Women's Affairs Office, which is under the Prime Minister's Office, has been preparing a national plan of action on gender equality, which is also in line with the Beijing Declaration of the Fourth World Conference on Women. The Women's Affairs Office has recently been upgraded to the ministerial level.

We share the views expressed by the Advisory Panel with respect to the growing consensus of what needs to be done in Africa and the priority areas identified for implementation. Indeed, without transforming the rural and agricultural sectors of Africa, without investing in the development of its human resources, without creating an enabling climate for the private sector through investing in physical

infrastructure, without improvements in governance in Africa and without squarely addressing conflicts and bringing peace, we cannot think of attaining sustainable growth and development in Africa. An efficient, supportive and capable public sector is of course vital to achieving those goals.

Regarding conflict resolution and the promotion of peace at the continental level, we are encouraged by the dynamism that the new African Union has injected into the joint African effort towards peace and stability.

As to the spirit envisioned by NEPAD, Africa's partners have also been increasing their commitment to support Africa's efforts. The recent decisions by the Group of Eight industrialized countries and the European Union in favour of the development of Africa, and the subsequent endorsement by the international community at the recent summit last September confirm the growing recognition of the need for action in support of Africa. Pledges by partners range from doubling official development assistance to Africa from its current level to $50 billion dollars by 2010, and debt relief to address the pressing challenges in the areas of agriculture, health, education and infrastructure. Ethiopia welcomes those efforts. We are confident that, in keeping with the title of the Advisory Panel's report, we will be able to move from rhetoric to action.

Malaria is one of Ethiopia's foremost health problems, ranking at the top of the list of communicable diseases. Malaria is endemic in three quarters of the country's land mass, and about two thirds of the population is at risk of infection. As a result, considerable attention has been given to malaria control from the very inception of the country's health sector development programme, in order to reduce the overall burden of the disease's morbidity and mortality.

The previous system of a vertical approach to malaria prevention and control has been phased out, and the service responsible for it has been integrated into the basic health service delivery system in order to ensure sustainability and the effective prevention and control of malaria in general, and epidemics in particular. The national strategic plan for the control of malaria in Ethiopia was developed on the basis on the framework of the World Health Organization's Roll Back Malaria Global Strategic Plan. That plan aims to reduce the burden of malaria by 25 per cent by the end of this year, and achieve the Abuja Roll Back Malaria target of 50 per cent by the year 2010. The utilization of insecticide-treated nets (ITN) is to be enhanced to 60 per cent by the year 2007. Early diagnosis and prompt treatment, the spraying of houses with insecticides, the distribution of ITNs and prompt community participation in the prevention and control of malaria have been priority interventions to date.

With regard to the mobilization of resources to combat malaria, multilateral donors have mobilized to establish a malaria control support team. This team helps to identify, and fill gaps in the malaria prevention and control programme. Significant achievement has also been made in soliciting funds from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria during the implementation period. Furthermore, cost estimates for the full set of interventions required to achieve the MDGs with respect to reversing the course of malaria in Ethiopia has been completed.

Those and other achievements have not been without challenges. Overcoming a shortage of, and high turnover in, personnel, inadequate community participation and the slow pace of utilizing the funds already solicited has proved to be an uphill struggle. Other challenges in preventing and controlling malaria include anomalous climatic changes that lead to epidemic conditions, the increase of water development schemes, increasing population movements, the emergence and spread of drug-resistant strains, the unaffordability and shortage of the new artemesinin-based combination therapies, and inadequate supplies of long-lasting insecticide-treated nets.

In conclusion, I wish to emphasize that malaria will remain one of the priority areas of intervention for the health sector in Ethiopia. I therefore call upon the international community, United Nations agencies and bilateral donors to strengthen their support with a view to meeting the targets set out in the Abuja Declaration.

Mr. Attieh (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): Permit me at the outset to thank the Secretary-General for the reports before us today.

My delegation associates itself with the statement by the Permanent Representative of Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

The Syrian Arab Republic believes that the efforts to achieve development in the South will be complete only if priority is accorded to African

concerns. My delegation has always supported the special needs of Africa, including its full support for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which was adopted by African leaders four years ago.

Syria welcomes the recent progress in the implementation of NEPAD and hopes that the mechanisms established within its framework will lead to concrete successes in the coming years. We agree with the report of the Secretary-General's Advisory Panel on International Support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (A/60/85), which states that such success will require international support. That will involve increasing official development assistance, providing debt relief and making maximum use of the trade sector. The report also highlights the importance of exploiting African capacities in various sectors. That will depend to a great extent on the international community's cooperation with African countries in the areas of technology transfer and capacity-building.

Supporting NEPAD is the best way to improve the efficiency of assistance to Africa, to support African priorities and to improve the capacity of Governments to establish links between sustainable development and anti-poverty strategies that meet the needs of African States.

Despite the importance of the decision of the Group of Eight to cancel the debts of many of the poorest countries, we wish to reaffirm that there should also be a serious solution for medium-income developing countries and debt cancellation for the least developed countries, many of which are on the African continent.

Since development and peace are closely interrelated, Syria supports all efforts to end the conflicts in Africa. Through its Security Council membership in 2002 and 2003, Syria mobilized the international community's efforts to promote peace in Africa and sincerely addressed the issues then before the Council, taking into account the rights and interests of African people. We also participated actively in a number of Security Council missions to areas where conflict might resume, which made recommendations aimed at achieving stability in Africa.

In that respect, we wish to reaffirm the importance of continuing the international efforts to end conflict and promote lasting peace and stability in Africa and of supporting the positive developments referred to in the report of the Secretary-General. We also wish to commend the African Union for its efforts and its leading peacekeeping activities on the continent. We support the position of the Group of African States concerning national ownership of peacebuilding activities in Africa.

If we are to maintain the momentum of the past few years of according priority to the special needs of Africa, we must all make greater efforts within the main and subsidiary bodies of the United Nations. We must benefit from ideas and initiatives promoting sustainable development and health, particularly those concerning the provision of free antimalaria mosquito nets and efforts to fight HIV/AIDS and the other pandemics that threaten the lives of millions of people in Africa and the world, and developing countries in particular.

Mr. Christmas (Saint Kitts and Nevis): It is not only a new partnership, but a new Africa, that we are seeing, especially when we look at the books now emanating from Africa. I would like to highlight in particular the book by the South African President, Thabo Mbeki, *Africa: Define Yourself*, which tells of the new Africa we are seeing today.

Before I discuss the external partnership linking Africa with other countries, I would like to focus on an internal partnership for Africa. On the basis of our experience in the Caribbean region, we have a common university for the Anglophone Caribbean. I believe that some time ago, an attempt was made in Africa to bring together the universities of Lesotho, Swaziland and Botswana. That probably fell by the wayside. We are willing to share our experiences in this area with the emerging new Africa and with the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

In our region, we have a common examination system for all the schools in the Anglophone Caribbean under the aegis of the University of the West Indies, so that the examination we give in Trinidad is the same one that we give in Jamaica and in Saint Kitts. We have a common currency for eight of the eastern Caribbean countries, called the Windward and the Leeward Islands. We are now attempting a common passport for the Anglophone Caribbean and have a common cricket team.

We are willing to share all these assets — and I am not saying that Africa can follow them — as well as our experience along these lines, with the emerging

Africa. I think that once a country is well cemented within itself, and has the appropriate partnerships within the continent, then it can move with confidence into partnership with other countries.

The President: In accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/2 of 19 October 1994, I call on the Observer of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Mr. Gospodinov (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies): Allow me to start on a personal note. Every time I meet a colleague from Africa in the United Nations building, I see a silent question in his eyes that ask "Are you doing the best you can for our continent?" I must confess that for us at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) it is not an easy question to answer. I am sure that many colleagues in this room share the same feeling that, despite some recent progress, we could — and should — do more for Africa.

This is more easily said than done. In a year such as this, when over the last 10 months alone hundreds of thousands of people have been killed and tens of millions affected by the tsunami tragedy, hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Stan, and now the horrific scenes in the aftermath of the earthquake in Pakistan and India, one may lose sight of Africa. It may no longer be a daily front-page story.

Yet for us Africa remains a priority. Thirty per cent of our Global Appeal for 2005 is for Africa. Of the 60 million Swiss francs sought, 88 per cent is directed to health care and disaster management and to building the capacity of our local member Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Africa. Last year, during the Sixth Pan-African Conference held in Algiers, the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement identified four major goals: scaling up the HIV/AIDS response; the African Red Cross/Red Crescent Health Initiative 2010, known as ARCHI 2010 addressing food security; and building local capacity. These are at the centre of a large part of our debate today, as was thoroughly analysed in the reports of the Secretary-General, which we appreciate. We are also encouraged by the latest initiatives of the Group of Eight, the European Union and, especially, the Government of the United Kingdom, for searching for and finding new ways to better assist the African continent.

We are pleased to see that the creation of a culture of prevention and the improvement of community health as preconditions for sustainable development are important, essential parts of United Nations future strategy. We fully support that approach. Yet, we believe that Africa must drive its own development and that the commitment of countries in need is essential to our common search for success in that continent. In this context, we believe that the communities themselves, the most vulnerable in Africa, must be included in the development platforms of their countries, especially in the fields of public health and disaster preparedness.

Looking back on our collective commitment undertaken at Ouagadougou in 1999, we are pleased to inform the General Assembly that, over the past five years, we have been able to significantly decrease measles-related child mortality in Africa as a result of the Measles Partnership; that the Abuja Roll Back Malaria target for long-lasting insecticide nets coverage for Togo was accomplished in one week, when 805,000 nets were distributed to people in need; and that the number of polio-endemic countries is steadily decreasing, with possible polio eradication, we hope, by 2008.

Learning from the polio and measles partnerships, Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies from Ghana, Zambia, Togo and Niger — with funding from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and from the Canadian Government — are preparing to distribute 2.26 million mosquito nets in Niger in December. This will secure the protection of every child under the age of five in Niger — a total of 3.5 million children. Maybe this is a modest figure, but it is yet another example of our excellent partnership with our friends from the United Nations family, especially the World Health Organization and UNICEF.

A joint polio and measles appeal brought capacity and results. During the last five years, more than 30 of our Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Africa provided social mobilization support to polio National Immunization Days, with approximately 1 million Swiss francs annually per each National Society. The same appeal enabled more than 35 of our African member societies to support measles campaigns in their countries and to participate in the Africa Measles Initiative partnership.

More effort, as well as human and financial resources, are being invested in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Anti-stigma campaigns, peer education, home-based care and partnerships with the people living with HIV/AIDS are only part of the job being done by our staff members and our volunteers.

However, we know that much more is needed from all of us. This battle is far from over. We are concerned that humanitarian emergencies linked to natural and man-made disasters, such as food insecurity, population movement and cholera, continue to destabilize West and Central Africa. Both political will and the resources to deal with these emergencies are not yet present.

No matter how many tons of medicine and mosquito nets we distribute, we know it will not be enough unless we invest in people and local capacity. This is one of the reasons why we are expanding our volunteer networks, as they are part of the local communities. Developing regional response teams is part of the same logic, and this will lead to integrating local staff and volunteers into international response teams. Both volunteers and the most vulnerable people are involved as partners in planning, implementing and evaluating prevention, emergency and health activities. The sick and starving sometimes know best what kind of help they need.

Our global long-term partnerships in water/sanitation have resulted in 2.5 million beneficiaries. By 2015, we plan to reach five million people. More than six million people have benefited from emergency assistance during the past 10 years. A big part of that job was done by our volunteers.

We also see this process as more than just feeding the hungry and curing the sick. Investing in the people of Africa is another step towards eradicating poverty and building peace and stability. As part of these efforts, the IFRC Secretary-General, together with senior officials from 12 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, are now working in the field with our Sudanese Red Crescent colleagues, trying to find solutions to some of the most urgent humanitarian challenges in the Sudan.

We know well that no matter how big our network may be, we cannot help Africa without working together with our partners, be they Government institutions or the United Nations. We therefore reached an agreement in March of this year with Medecins sans Frontieres Belgium and the World Food Programme to jointly assist people living with HIV/AIDS in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including people receiving antiretroviral treatment. Similar cooperation formulas are to be applied between the IFRC and eight major United Nations agencies working in Southern Africa.

To conclude, Mr. President, let me mention some specific challenges we face. Very often, it is increasingly difficult to recruit qualified technical experts to deploy during emergencies in the continent, especially French-speaking experts. With the dramatically increased number of natural disasters in South Asia, the Caribbean and Central America, as well as the United States Gulf Coast, many of our best experts are being drawn away from Africa. It is no secret that, despite broad agreement that Africa must remain a focus and a priority, both human and financial resources go elsewhere. There were no tsunamis or earthquakes in West and Central Africa, thank God, but the number of people suffering there is no less impressive or unpleasantly disturbing.

That brings me back to where I started: the silent question in the eyes of our African colleagues. Are we doing the best we can for the continent? Despite some improvements, the answer remains mixed.

There is an old African saying, that a boy becomes a man after he kills a lion. Translating that into today's African reality, it seems that we all have a lot of lions to deal with before maturity is reached and the future of Africa is secured.

The President: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on the items before the Assembly. We have heard a total of 43 speakers in that debate. It is of course impossible to summarize the rich and comprehensive discussion we have had. However, allow me to list some key points that I think have emerged from this important debate.

First, with regard to malaria, speakers strongly welcomed the real progress that has been made recently. But there was also equally strong recognition that stepped-up action is needed to prevent the unnecessary deaths of so many people, particularly children in Africa.

Secondly, there has been recognition that the scourge of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other communicable disease threatens to reverse the gains being made in development. Stronger public health systems are needed for prevention, treatment, care and

research, as well as for the resources necessary to do all that.

Thirdly, it was widely recognized that the New Partnership for Africa's Development has changed the nature of discussions on development. There is now a spirit of genuine partnership and African ownership. For example, the African Peer Review Mechanism was frequently cited as an illustration of the way things are changing in that regard.

Fourthly, I want in particular to commend African progress in the areas of peace and security, which was noted by many speakers — for instance, the African Union's Peace and Security Council and progress towards an early-warning system and an African standby force. We welcome the African Union's goal of a conflict-free Africa by 2010. The Assembly will recall that the figures pertaining to conflict were rather high in 1998, but have now gone from, I think, 14 to 3. I think that is also an interesting aspect of how we can live up to Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. Let us remember that regional organizations and arrangements are part of the Charter. I believe that is an illustration of what this means in practice.

Fifthly, there was a broad call for the rapid establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission, on which very important consultations and negotiations are taking place. But there has also been a strong message from this Hall about the importance of establishing the Commission quickly.

There has been a welcome increase in interest in Africa's priorities, especially the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme and the new international consortium on infrastructure.

The recent commitments on official development assistance (ODA) were widely welcomed, including the commitment to double ODA to Africa and the commitments by many donors to reach the target of 0.7 per cent in ODA. Speakers welcomed the progress made earlier this year at Paris on the effectiveness of aid and increased flows of donor funding as budget support. There were calls for further work to ensure that the donor system, including the United Nations system, is well coordinated.

In addition, speakers welcomed African commitments on governance, anti-corruption measures and the creation of a good climate for investment.

But there was strong emphasis on the need to keep up momentum and preserve the sense of urgency in our work, as well as on the need to monitor implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting and the particular commitments made to Africa. In that regard, I welcome the role of the new African Partnership Forum.

With regard to debt, speakers welcomed the progress made this year, in particular the G-8 debt initiative. But there were also calls for action on the issue of debt in all heavily indebted African countries.

On trade, from the very beginning to the end of our debate there was a strong push for a breakthrough at Hong Kong.

With regard to foreign direct investment, there was a concern that only 3 per cent of such flows are going to Africa. There were expressions of hope and determination, in some cases, to work to change that situation.

Lastly, we heard many good and practical examples of South-South cooperation as a very valuable complement to ongoing donor support. We therefore have national efforts, good regional efforts, good South-South cooperation and, it is to be hoped, good cooperation between donor and recipient countries.

All those matters were raised during our discussion. There is a need to continue to monitor progress on those issues. I am sure that the Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council will continue to carry out that monitoring.

I think that, coming after the summit meeting, this debate was timely in maintaining the momentum on the very important issues of development, not least the issues relating to the African continent and to fighting the scourge of malaria and other communicable diseases.

I thank representatives for making this debate a meaningful one. Let us carry forth its message during our continued work. I also thank members for their participation.

The Assembly has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of agenda items 66 and 47.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.

United Nations A/60/PV.34

General Assembly

Sixtieth session

Official Records

34th plenary meeting
Monday, 17 October 2005, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Eliasson ..... (Sweden)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 111 (*continued*)

Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs

(b) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council

The President: The General Assembly will now turn to the election of 18 members of the Economic and Social Council to replace those members whose term of office expires on 31 December 2005. The 18 outgoing members are: Azerbaijan, Benin, the Congo, Cuba, Ecuador, France, Germany, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain and Turkey.

As of 1 January 2006, the following States will be represented on the Economic and Social Council: Albania, Armenia, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Chad, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Italy, Lithuania, Mauritius, Mexico, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Thailand, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America. The names of those 36 States should therefore not appear on the ballots.

In accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 2847 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971, and taking into account the number of States that will remain members of the Council after 1 January 2006, the 18 members should be elected as follows: five from the Group of African States, three from the Group of Asian States, one from the Group of Eastern European States, four from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and five from the Group of Western European and other States. The ballot papers reflect that pattern.

I should like to inform the Assembly that those candidates, their number not exceeding the number of seats to be filled, who receive the greatest number of votes and a two-thirds majority of members present and voting, will be declared elected. In the case of a tie vote for a remaining seat, there will be a special restricted ballot limited to those candidates that have obtained an equal number of votes.

May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to that procedure?

It was so decided.

The President: In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election shall be held by secret ballot and there shall be no nominations.

Regarding candidatures of the respective regional Groups, the Secretariat has been informed of the following. For the five vacant seats from among the African States, the Group has endorsed five candidates: Angola, Benin, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar and Mauritania.

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For the three vacant seats from among the Asian States, the Group has endorsed three candidates: Japan, Saudi Arabia and Sri Lanka.

For the one vacant seat from among the Eastern European States, the Group has endorsed the Czech Republic.

For the four vacant seats from among the Latin American and Caribbean States, there are five candidates: Cuba, Guyana, Haiti, Paraguay and Uruguay.

For the five vacant seats among the Western European and other States, the Group has endorsed five candidates: Austria, France, Germany, Spain and Turkey.

In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, we shall now proceed to the election by secret ballot.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting. I should like to seek the usual cooperation of representatives during the time of the conduct of the election.

I should also like to remind members that during the voting, all campaigning should cease in the conference room. That means, in particular, that once the election has begun, no campaign materials may be distributed in the room. All representatives are also asked to remain in their seats in order that the voting process may proceed in an orderly manner. I thank members in advance for their cooperation.

We shall now begin the voting process.

Ballot papers marked "A", "B", "C", "D" and "E" will now be distributed. I request representatives to use only those ballot papers and to write on them the names of the States for which they wish to vote.

A ballot paper containing more names from the relevant region than the number of seats assigned to it will be declared invalid. Names of Member States on a ballot paper that do not belong to that region will not be counted at all.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Londoño (Colombia), Ms. Heikkilä (Finland), Ms. Kollár (Hungary), Mr. Kyaw Moe Tun (Myanmar), Mr. Lee Jang-keun (Republic of Korea) and Mr. Kitchen (Zimbabwe) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 10.40 a.m. and resumed at 12.35 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group A — African States	
Number of ballot papers:	189
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	189
Abstentions:	1
Number of Members voting:	188
Required majority of Members present and voting:	126
Number of votes obtained:	
Angola	186
Madagascar	184
Benin	183
Mauritania	181
Guinea-Bissau	180
Group B — Asian States	
Number of ballot papers:	189
Number of invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	188
Abstentions:	1
Number of Members voting:	187
Required majority of Members present and voting:	125
Number of votes obtained:	
Saudi Arabia	182
Japan	180
Sri Lanka	180
Myanmar	1
Group C — Eastern European States	
Number of ballot papers:	189
Number of invalid ballots:	3
Number of valid ballots:	186
Abstentions:	12
Number of Members voting:	174
Required majority of Members present and voting:	116
Number of votes obtained:	
Czech Republic	173
Azerbaijan	1

Group D — Latin American and Caribbean States

Number of ballot papers:	189
Number of invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	188
Abstentions:	0
Number of Members voting:	188
Required majority of Members present and voting:	126
Number of votes obtained:	
Paraguay	160
Guyana	158
Cuba	154
Haiti	138
Uruguay	121
Nicaragua	1
Grenada	1

Group E — Western European and other States

Number of ballot papers:	189
Number of invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid baliots:	188
Abstentions:	5
Number of Members voting:	183
Required majority of Members present and voting:	122
Number of votes obtained:	
Austria	175
France	175
Germany	174
Spain	173
Turkey	172
Ireland	4
Greece	1
Australia	1

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, Angola, Austria, Benin, Cuba, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Japan, Madagascar, Mauritania, Paraguay, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sri Lanka and Turkey were elected members of the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term beginning 1 January 2006.

The President: I congratulate those States that have been elected members of the Economic and Social Council, and I thank the tellers for their assistance in this election.

That concludes our consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 111.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.